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State of New York.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

GENERAL AGENT

FOR THE

RELIEF OF SICK AND WOUNDED SOLDIERS

OF THE

STATE OF NEW YORK.

TRANSMITTED TO THE LEGISLATURE APRIL 14, 1865.



ALBANY :

C. WENDELL, LEGISLATIVE PRINTER,

1865.

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# State of New York.

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No. 83.

IN SENATE,

April 14, 1865.

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## ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE GENERAL AGENT FOR THE RELIEF OF SICK AND  
WOUNDED SOLDIERS.

STATE OF NEW YORK:

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,  
ALBANY, April 14, 1865. }

To the Senate:

I transmit herewith the Annual Report for the year 1864 of the General Agent of the State, appointed under the act for the relief of sick and wounded soldiers.

R. E. FENTON.

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To His Excellency HORATIO SEYMOUR,

*Governor of the State of New York:*

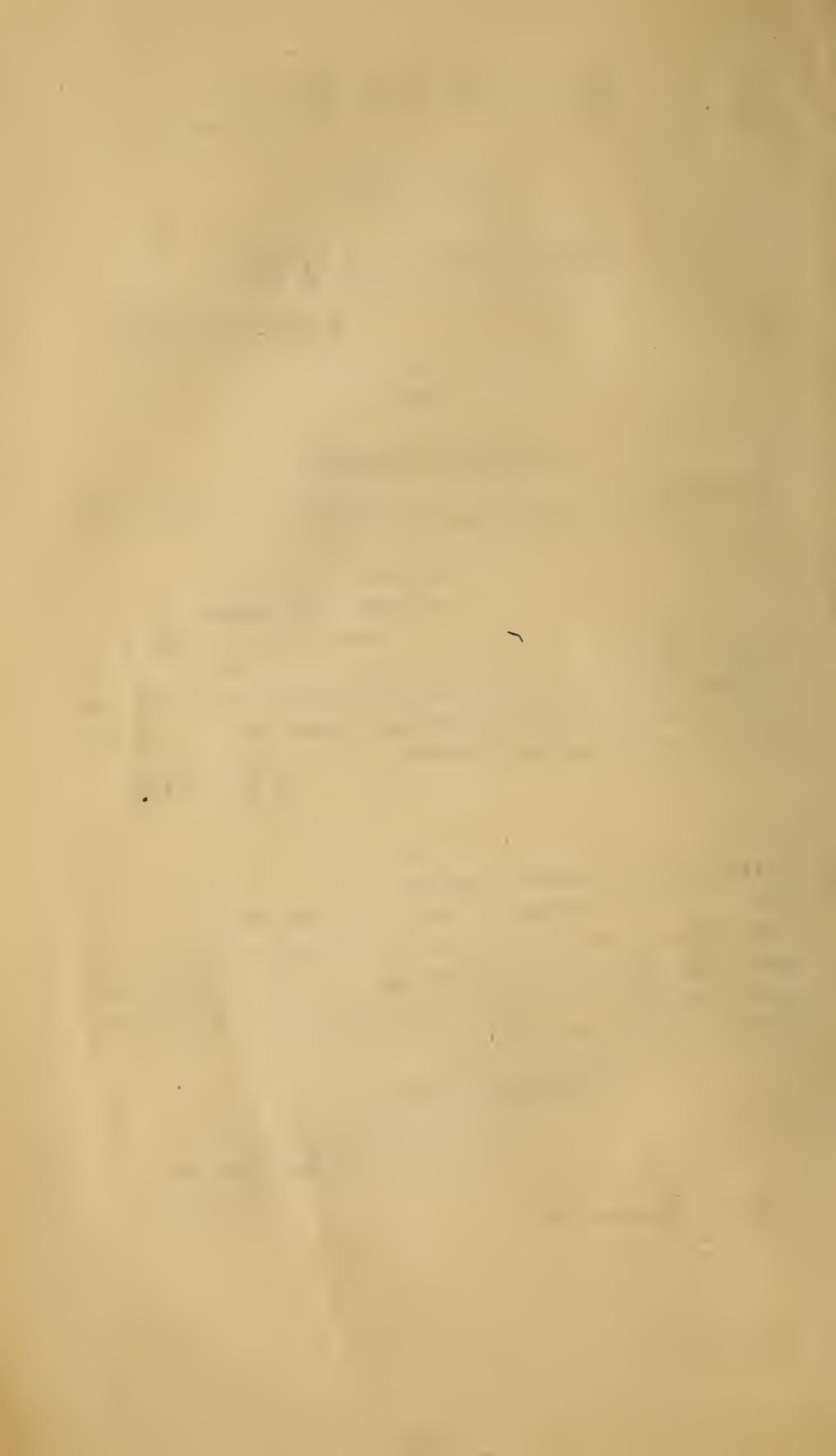
Sir—Pursuant to section one of chapter 224 of the Laws of 1863, I herewith submit reports for the year 1864 of the several agencies established out of this State for the relief of its sick and wounded soldiers in the United States service.

Very respectfully yours,

JOHN F. SEYMOUR,

*General Agent for the Relief of  
Sick and Wounded Soldiers  
of the State.*

ALBANY, December, 1864.



## REPORT.

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By chapter 224 of the Laws of 1863, the Governor of this State is authorized to appoint suitable agents, whose duty it shall be to provide additional means of relief for the sick, wounded, furloughed and discharged soldiers of this State, who shall have been or are now engaged in the United States service, while being transported to and from their homes; to ascertain the names and condition of all patients belonging to this State in the United States hospitals; to keep a register of the same; to furnish information to all who make inquiry concerning them; to facilitate the removal of the bodies of deceased soldiers, and to perform such other duties for the relief of the sick and wounded soldiers of this State as the Governor may designate and require; and to make reports to the Governor of their transactions and expenditures with vouchers duly verified on oath. The Governor is also authorized by said act to appoint such number of surgeons and other agents as from time to time may be required for the care, comfort and removal of the sick and wounded soldiers of the State. To carry this act into effect, the sum of two hundred thousand dollars was appropriated to be paid on the order of the Governor and disbursed under his direction, together with an unexpended balance of \$14,820.53 of a prior appropriation for these purposes.

In pursuance of this law the following agencies have been established, namely:

No. 1. THE WASHINGTON AGENCY, under Cols. Samuel North and John Bradley; Dr. James L. Babcock, medical director, assisted by Drs. J. Dwinnell, J. S. Mosher, J. G. Mosher and Mr. Andrew J. Chesebro; G. B. Scofield, J. H. Keyes, S. V. Reeve and others, assistants and clerks in the office; Mrs. Scofield, Miss Brown, Miss Kip, Mrs. Thayer, Miss Wood, Mrs. Lyons, Mr. and

Mrs. Jones, as hospital visitors. During the campaign of last summer, temporary assistance was rendered by the following persons : Drs. E. Odell, Douglas, M. M. Bagg, E. H. Thayer, Rev. P. H. Fowler, Mr. Merritt Peckham, Miss Margaret Rockwell and Miss Meeker, of Utica; Drs. B. B. Fredenbergh, John Babcock and Mr. J. E. Nott, of Albany; Ambrose Crandall, George W. Parsons, N. C. Bradstreet, of Rochester; Drs. Geo. W. Cook, Geo. Lawter, Thos. Radigan, O. E. Wainwright, N. J. Van Groesbeeck, Galen Wilson, of Syracuse.

- No. 2. THE ALEXANDRIA AGENCY, under Dr. Walter B. Coventry, John Callahan, Daniel Bryan, Mrs. Webb, Mrs. Hubbard.
- No. 3. THE TEMPORARY AGENCY AT FREDERICKSBURG, under Mr. Calvin G. Beach, of Albion; H. D. Brownell, of Sauquoit.
- No. 4. THE TEMPORARY AGENCY AT BELLE PLAIN, under Drs. James L. Babcock, Lewis Post, of Lodi; Dr. Stephen H. Maxson, of Cuba; Drs. J. K. Chamberlayne, J. N. Goff, of Cazenovia.
- No. 5. THE AGENCY IN THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, under the charge of the Rev. J. V. Van Ingen and Mrs. R. H. Spencer.
- No. 6. THE TEMPORARY AGENCY IN THE VALLEY OF SHENANDOAH, under Dr. J. E. West and Harvey P. Perry, of Utica.
- No. 7. THE NORFOLK AGENCY, under Dr. Theodore Dimon, of Auburn.
- No. 8. THE BALTIMORE AGENCY, under M. J. Ferry, G. M. Mundy and Dr. Goff and Maxson.
- No. 9. THE HARRISBURG AGENCY, under Dr. Lewis Post.
- No. 10. THE PHILADELPHIA AGENCY, under Rev. David Malin, James Edgar and Dr. J. E. West.
- No. 11. THE AGENCY AT NEW ORLEANS, under Dr. D. L. Rogers and Col. Jas. Grant.
- No. 12. THE AGENCY AT BUFFALO AND THE SOUTHWEST, under charge of Horatio Seymour, Jr., of Buffalo.
- No. 13. THE LOUISVILLE AGENCY, under charge of Wm. S. Parkhurst.
- No. 14. THE NASHVILLE AGENCY, under charge of Mrs. H. C. May.

In order to a full appreciation of the labors performed and good accomplished by the agencies I have enumerated, I submit here-

with reports from each agency, and I ask for each report a careful perusal.

In addition to these local agents, couriers have been placed upon the principal trains between Washington and New York city, not only for the care, comfort and removal of the sick and wounded soldiers to the New York State Soldiers' Depot, where they are cared for without charge, but also for the protection of furloughed and discharged soldiers against the imposition of runners and swindlers.

A station agent has also been placed in the railroad depot at Washington to aid in the care and protection of our soldiers.

The New York State Soldiers' Depot at New York city, which I am informed has provided for more than seventy thousand soldiers of our own and other states, has also been maintained out of the same appropriation.

The assessments made upon this State for her share of the national cemetery at Gettysburg, have also been paid, amounting in all thus far to \$6,520.

Seven thousand dollars have been contributed out of this fund for the support of the Soldiers' Home at Elmira, and five hundred dollars to the Soldiers' Rest at Buffalo.

Besides maintaining these important and extensive agencies and the State Soldiers' Depot at New York, supplies have been sent to our armies at Harper's Ferry, Hilton Head and at City Point.

The following acknowledgments from officers and soldiers will gratify all those whose sympathies are roused by the deprivations and sufferings of our soldiers:

CAMP OF THE 147TH N. Y. VOL., NEAR PETERS- }  
BURG, VA., August 12th, 1864. }

To JOHN F. SEYMOUR, General Agent N. Y. Soldiers' Relief:

Dear Sir—We, the undersigned, officers of the 147th New York volunteers, desirous of making some acknowledgment for donations of lemons, crackers, can fruit and other supplies received at the hands of your agent, Mrs. R. H. Spence, respectfully tender you our thanks. It is gratifying to us, and cheering and reviving to the men in our command, to receive these tokens of remembrance from our own State, and at the present time, after the hardships and privations of the last few weeks, these donations are doubly welcome. We have received no pay for five months. During three months of this time we have been constantly on duty, and always in the front ranks, never in reserve, and when in

our greatest need, worn and weary, your agent comes to us with tokens of remembrance from our own homes, sent by the executive of our own State, the gift is duly prized and fully appreciated. With pride we look up to our flag, as it waves the motto "Excell-sior," and know that the empire State has not forgotten her sons, and as she never has, we believe she never will have cause to blush for their deeds.

Respectfully yours,

GEORGE HARVEY, *Lieut.-Col. 147th N. Y. V., commanding Regiment,*

JAMES A. McKINLEY, *Capt. Co. F,*

VOLNEY J. PIERCE, *Capt. Co. D,*

ALEX'DER R. PENFIELD, *Capt. Co. II,*

GEORGE HUGUNIN, *Capt. Co. B,*

WILLIAM J. GILLETT, *Capt. Co. G,*

HENRY H. HUBBARD, *Capt. Co. C,*

JOSEPH DEMPSEY, *Capt. Co. K,*

JAMES COREY, *Capt. and Act. Quar. Master,*

JAMES W. KINGSLEY, *1st Lieut. Co. B,*

RICHARD ESMOND, *1st Lieut. Co. H,*

EDWIN M. SPERRY, *1st Lieut. Co. C,*

LANSING BRISTOL, *1st Lieut. Co. E, comd'g,*

JOHN G. BERRY, *1st Lieut. Co. D,*

WILLIAM KINNEY, *2d Lieut. Co. A,*

WILLIAM SULLIVAN, *2d Lieut. Co. I,*

WILLIAM A. WYBOURN, *1st Lieut. Co. I,*

JOEL A. BAKER, *2d Lieut. Co. F, comd'g,*

J. T. STILLMAN, *Assistant Surgeon,*

ALEX. KING, *1st Lieut. Co. D,*

EDWARD LAWLOR, *1st Lieut. Co. E,*

JOHN McKINLOCK, *Capt. Co. A,*

JOHN N. BEADLE, *Lieut. and Acting Adjutant,*

FRANK P. BEAKR, *2d Lieut. Co. G.*

HEADQUARTERS PONTOON TRAIN NO. 1,

FIRST BATTALION FIFTIETH N. Y. V. ENGINEERS, }  
CAMP NEAR CITY POINT, VIRGINIA, August 27, 1864. }

Hon. JOHN F. SEYMOUR, *Albany, N. Y.:*

Sir—I am happy to acknowledge the receipt, on the 26th inst., from the State agency of the State of New York, through Mrs. R. H. Spencer, of the following articles for the benefit of the officers and men of my command :

Two barrels of potatoes, one barrel of beets, one barrel of turnips, one barrel of onions, two-thirds of a barrel of sour-kraut, one case of canned tomatoes, one case of horse radish, one box of lemons.

The small quantity of vegetables issued by the commissary department, and the sanitary condition of my command just at this time, render the donation doubly acceptable, and the donors may be assured of the sincere gratitude of all parties benefitted.

Most truly your obedient servant,

W. V. VERSONIUS,

*Captain Commanding.*

NINTH ARMY CORPS HOSPITAL,  
CITY POINT, VIRGINIA, *August 29, 1864.* }

Mrs. SPENCER :

We, the undersigned, wish to acknowledge our thanks for the articles that we received from you, that were sent from New York State for the benefit of sick and wounded soldiers at this hospital, and we feel proud to think the Empire State is not behind in furnishing articles that are so much needed by the brave soldiers that have come here to fight for the cause of our country, and we wish to acknowledge, through you, our most sincere thanks to Mr. John F. Seymour, New York State agent, for forwarding supplies to this department.

SAMUEL TAYLOR, 2d N. Y. M. R., Co. B.  
CHARLES BARRIER, 24th N. Y. Cavalry.  
CHARLES TRALL, 2d N. Y. M. R., Co. B.  
JOHN ROB, 14th Heavy Artillery.

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY "L," 1ST N. Y. ART., }  
BEFORE PETERSBURG, VA., *Aug. 8, 1864.* }

Mrs. R. H. SPENCER, *Agent New York State Sanitary Relief:*

Madam—Accept my thanks, and the thanks of the men of my command, for the timely donations of crackers, can-fruit and meats sent us to-day. Words will scarcely express the gratification of our men on the receipt of the delicacies. We value them, not so much for their intrinsic worth—though favors ever so small are thankfully received by troops in the field—but the fact of their reaching us just in the time of need, when the men were worn out, and for the want of their pay nearly disheartened; and, more than all, these things are prized as an evidence that the benevolent of the Empire State bear us in remembrance. Through you, we tender our most hearty thanks to the Governor, who sends us these supplies, and wish you to assure him that, as heretofore, we shall continue to bear our motto "Excelsior" through the thickest

of the fight—ever in the front rank—and, as our corps commander says, “always reliable.”

Respectfully your friend,

GEORGE BRECK,

*Captain Battery “L,” 1st N. Y. L. Artillery.*

NEAR CITY POINT, VA., Aug. 6, 1864.

Mrs. R. H. SPENCER, *Agent N. Y. S. Sanitary Commission:*

Allow me in behalf of Co. L, 8th N. Y. Cavalry, the pleasure of returning our sincere thanks for your prompt attention and commendable zeal in supplying said company with much needed articles of clothing, canned milk, canned fruit, vegetables, meats, pickles, lemons, dried fruits and tobacco.

The deprivation of the liberal rations we receive when in camp, with the many hardships we have to perform when on duty, at the extreme front, render many a rugged soldier unfit for any duty whatever. To receive such articles of comfort and luxnry, when nature is fast sinking for the want of proper nourishment, is of more benefit to the debilitated soldier than all the medicine the surgeon's case contains.

Thanking you for your personal kindness, we would not forget the “loved ones at home,” who place the means into the hands of the Sanitary Commission for distribution—they, too, have our heartfelt gratitude and best wishes. Could each donor know from experience the benefit his or her contribution confers upon *their defenders*, we think their contributions, great and noble as they are, would be more than double, and the labor of the mothers and sisters in preparing articles of clothing, grow lighter by the good such an experience would impart. Trusting that the Giver of all Good will awaken all people to a sense of their duty in this matter, thereby increasing the good that is now being accomplished, until the wants of each needy soldier can be alleviated, please accept our united wishes for your welfare and prosperity.

MORTIMER HENDERSHOTT.

*Report of the distribution of \$1,000 worth of supplies sent to the care of Dr. J. B. Brinton, Assist. Surg.. U. S. A., Med. Purveyor A. of P., by John F. Seymour, Esq., Gen. Agent N. Y. Soldiers Relief.*

Date.	To whom issued, &c.	Lemons.	Oranges.	Crackers.	Can fruit.	Can fowl.	Can meats.
		Boxes 10	Boxes 10	Bbls. 20	Boxes 50	Boxes 12	Boxes 13
July 30..	Received at City Point.....						
31..	Issued to 4th Div. 5th A. C. Hosp...	3	3	2	6	1	1
August 1..	2d Brig. 1st Div. 5th A. C.	1	2	....	4	....	....
3..	147th Reg't N. Y. V.....	1	....	1	4	2	2
4..	95th Reg't N. Y. V.....	1	1	1	4	2	2
4..	76th Reg t N. Y. V.....	1	1	1	4	2	2
4..	Asst. Brig. 5th A. C. Hosp.	1	1	....	....	....	....
4..	Battery G, 1st N. Y. Art..	1	1	1	4	1	1
4..	93d N. Y. Vols.....	1	....	....	3	....	....
5..	2d Div. 5th A. C. Hospital.	....	1	....	3	....	....
6..	30th, 6th and 9th N.Y. Cav.	....	....	2	5	....	2
6..	8th N. Y. Cavalry .....	....	....	....	1	....	....
6..	22d N. Y. Cavalry .....	....	....	....	1	....	....
6..	4th N. Y. Heavy Artillery,	....	....	....	1	....	....
8..	24th N. Y. Cavalry .....	....	....	2	3	....	1
10..	Battery L 1st N. Y. Art..	....	....	1	....	....	....
10..	3d Div. 5th A. C. Hospital,	....	....	1	....	....	....
11..	2d N. Y. Rifles.....	....	....	1	....	....	....
12..	from tent to individuals. ....	....	....	7	7	4	2
		10	10	20	50	12	13

*Abstract of Receipt and Distribution of Vegetables, Can Fruit, Lemons, Pickles, Sour Krout, etc., received from Horatio Seymour, of Buffalo, N. Y., agent N. Y. Relief, August 26th, 1864.*

*Received.*

	Bush.	Bush.	Bush.	Bush.	Hund.	Dozen	Cans.	Cans.	Cans.	Gals.
	250	100	125	50	9000	120	192	480	240	540
<i>Distributed.</i>										
5th Corps General Hospital, City Point,	15	10	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	12	24	52	28	24	60
2d do do do	20	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	200	24	24	24	24	24	20
9th do do do	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	900	11	25	25	24	25	20
Cavalry Corps Hospital, City Point...	15	1	1	.....	24	.....	.....	.....	24	10
Oneida Cavalry, 30 men, Capt. D. P. Mann, commanding.....	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1	1	100	.....	3	2	2	2	....
2d Brig. 2d Div. 2d A. C., composed of the 164th, 155th, 170th and 69th Vols., and 8th N. Y. Heavy Art....	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	900	12	48	48	48	48	120
179th N. Y. Vols., and 14th New York Heavy Artillery .....	5	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{3}$	500	6	12	24	12	12
2d Brig. 1st Div. 5th Corps—all Penn- sylvania troops .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12	24	.....	.....	.....	10
28th Regt. U. S. Colored troops, in the field .....	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	300	6	.....	.....	.....	.....	10
61st N. Y. Vols. in the field.....	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	.....	6	12	12	12	12	....
Christian Commission at General Field Hospital .....	5	5	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	....
Stewards and Clerks at Medical Direc- tor's office.....	2	1	2	2	5	4	4	4	4	....
121st N. Y. Vols. in the field .....	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	100	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
65th N. Y. Vols. do detachment.....	1	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	100	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
122d N. Y. Vols. and 121st N. Y. Vols. detachment .....	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	4	3	2	200	6	6	6	6	8
50th N. Y. Eng. in the field .....	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	12	24	24	24	24	60
1st N. Y. Light Art. in the field.....	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	100	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
63d N. Y. Vols. and Ames' Battery in the field.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	....
2d Div. 2d A. C. Field Hospital at the front .....	10	.....	5	.....	200	6	.....	.....	.....	12
120th N. Y. Vols. Lt. Col. Tappan at the front .....	15	.....	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	.....	500	.....	24	24	24	15
147th, 95th and 76th N. Y. Vols. in same brigade at the front .....	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	.....	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	.....	500	.....	.....	.....	.....	10
Irish Brigade, 1st Div. 2d Corp-, at the front .....	12	12	12	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	1500	12	72	72	72	120
10th N. Y. Cavalry.....	15	5	10	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	900	.....	.....	24	24	60
4th Div. 5th Corps, Field Hospital...	10	5	10	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	500	.....	.....	.....	.....	10
15th N. Y. Heavy Art. at the front.....	5	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	5	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	600	12	24	24	12	24
Stewards and Clerks in Med. Purv'r's,	5	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	5	300	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10
Distributed from tent to individuals..	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	200	.....	12	24	12	12	20
	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	3	400	8	13	70	32	15
	250	100	125	50	9000	120	192	480	240	540

I have estimated a barrel of potatoes, turnips, onions and beets at two and a half bushels; the pickles and sourkraut were counted and measured. You will see that the distributions were not exclusively to New York men. In distributing to hospitals all were served alike and shared equally. One regiment of colored troops received a portion, and in small detachments troops from other States received a share.

Herewith I send you requisitions, orders and acknowledgments, with an accompanying letter.

Very respectfully, your ob't serv't,

R. H. SPENCER, Hospital Steward U. S. A.

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH NEW YORK ARTILLERY,  
HARPER'S FERRY, VA., Sept. 14th, 1864.

Received of J. H. Abeel, N. Y. State Agent, the following articles, for the use and benefit of the 1st battalion of this regiment:

35 bbls. potatoes, 20 do. onions, 20 do. turnips, 10 do. beets, 2 eases eranberries, 7 do. tomatoes, 4 do. blaekberries.

A. L. MUNSON,  
*Adjutant 5th N. Y. Vol. Artillery.*

OFFICE MEDICAL DIRECTOR, H. H. D.,  
HILTON HEAD, S. C., July 25th, 1864.

Col. I. S. NEVILLE:

Dear Sir—It gives me pleasure to announee to you that your supply of vegetables as a donation from the State of New York, for her soldiers in the field, was most opportune in this department, and has been judieously distributed by your effieient agent, Mr. J. D. Rightmyer, who visited every eamp on the different islands to see that no soldier from the Empire State was omitted in sharing these charitable gifts.

In behalf of the New York State troops, permit me to return to you their sineere thanks for your kind remembrance of them.

Very respeetfully your obedient servant,

A. P. DALRYMPLE,  
*Surgeon U. S. Vols., Medical Director, H. H. D.*

The aet under which this ageney is maintained makes no appropriation for the relief of the wives, sisters or daughters of soldiers who, though poor, are drawn to Washington by the desire to see their husbands, brothers or fathers in hospitals. These poor women often exhaust all their means to get to Washington and then have no money with whieh to return to their homes. Under these circumstanees I eolleeted for their relief a private fund of \$775, to which

Senator Cornell contributed.....	\$100
Demas Strong.....	100
Thomas H. Faile.....	200
A. T. Stewart & Co.....	250
Samuel Breese, of Oneida.....	25
John F. Seymour.....	100

This fund was placed in the hands of Col. North, and by it eighty-nine poor women have been assisted.

I submit herewith the following statement of the disbursement

of this money, not for publication but to show the fidelity with which Col. North has discharged this, in addition to his ordinary duties:

*Statement of contributions for relief of wives, mothers or sisters of New York Volunteer Soldiers at Washington, D. C., paid to and disbursed by Samuel North, viz.:*

Received of Messrs. Cornell and Strong, \$200	{	Mr. Cornell, \$100
		Mr. Strong, \$100
Mr. Faile -----	200	
Samuel Wave -----	25	
Alex. T. Stewart & Co. -----	250	
J. F. Seymour -----	100	
	-----	\$775

Paid out :

To Mrs. Page, a soldier's mother, to return to Wayne co.	\$5 00
A soldier's wife, to return to Albany -----	12 00
Mrs. Linebeck, wife 2d N. Y. H. A., Utica -----	5 00
A needy soldier's wife-----	5 00
Wife of private Fillian, Co. I, 9th N. Y. A., Auburn	12 50
Ryan, do do do	12 50
Myer, Co. R, 2d mounted rifles -----	5 00
Doyle, Co. D, 24th N. Y. C., Buffalo -----	15 00
Garvin, 9th N. Y. V. A., Clyde -----	13 00
Maders, Co. G, 83d N. Y. V., Franklin county-----	10 00
Smith, Co. 100, 2d V. R. C.-----	10 00
Mrs. Myers, New York city-----	4 00
Wife of private Baker, 9th N. Y. A., Lyons -----	10 00
Serg't Wood, Co. I, 65th N. Y. V., N. York	8 00
and 3 children of private Foster, 9th N. Y. A.,	
Alexander -----	33 00
of private Hunt, 17th Ind't Battery, Middleport	10 00
and 2 children of Serg't Downer, 2d N. Y. A.-----	26 62
Sister of private Kingsley, 8th N. Y. V.-----	2 00
Mother of private Owen, deceased, Rochester-----	15 00
Mrs. Daniels, wife of Serg't Daniels-----	10 00
Sister of private Kellette, 56th N. Y. V.-----	5 00
Mother of private Lamphere, Co. H., 8th N. Y. V.	
A., Chemung -----	10 00
Wife of private Ross, Co. I, 2d Artillery, New York	8 25
and children of Capt. R. H. Bell, deceased, 7th	
N. Y. H. A., to Albany -----	25 00
of private Ingersoll, Co. B, 111th N. Y. V.-----	4 50
Burke, 113th N. Y. V., Troy-----	9 00
Mother of private Spanahan, 50th N. Y. V. Eng.,	
Oswego-----	10 00
Wife of private McCarty, 14th N. Y. V. C., N. York	8 50

To Wife of private Cleary, 69th N. Y. V., New York .....	\$8 25
Nelson, 179th N. Y. V., Elmira .....	15 00
Cook, 143d N. Y. V., Dryden .....	5 00
Sister of private Riley, 10th N. Y. V. ....	9 00
Wife of private Wallace, 63d N. Y. V., Mohawk .....	10 00
Sister of private Pitcher, 122d N. Y. V., Syracuse .....	15 00
Wife of private Fiesch, 5th Ind't Battery, Rochester .....	10 00
Sister of private Herrington, 65th N. Y. V. C., White Creek .....	15 00
Wife of private Vogler, 5th Ind't Battery, Rochester .....	5 00
McGrath, 83d N. Y. V., New York .....	7 00
W. M. Horton, 81st N. Y. V., Oswego .....	19 00
Mrs. Rayner, a sick hospital nurse, Ilion .....	7 00
Wife of private Hazel, 10th N. Y. H. A., New York .....	9 00
Mother of private Emblen, 147th N. Y. V., Syracuse .....	13 00
Sister of Corp'l Morrison, 81st N. Y. V., Oswego .....	10 00
Misses Shaw, hospital nurses .....	10 00
Wife of a soldier .....	2 00
Wife of private Gillian, 155th N. Y. V., New York .....	9 00
Haas, 15th H. A., New York .....	8 00
Mother of private Stevens, 126th N. Y. V., Ontario county .....	17 00
Wife of private North, 137th N. Y. V., Oswego .....	7 00
Cherry, 2d N. Y. V. C. ....	5 00
Connolly, 15th N. Y. V., New York .....	5 85
Gurn, 95th N. Y. V., New York .....	9 50
Mother of private Raymond, 5th N. Y. V. C., Scio .....	8 00
Wife of private Ruffin, 153d N. Y. V., New York .....	8 50
Wife and children of private Doneghue, 2d N. Y. H. A., New York .....	10 00
Wife of private Scott, 69th N. Y., New York .....	10 00
McComben, 7th N. Y. H. A., Potsdam .....	10 00
Mother of private Ackley, 93d N. Y. V., Albany .....	10 00
C. Griffen, 125 N. Y. V., Seneca Falls .....	12 00
Wife of private Conroy, 20th N. Y. V., Esopus .....	10 00
Sullivan, 5th N. Y. H. A., Afton .....	15 00
Backus, 6th N. Y. H. A., Fowler .....	10 00
Hard, 6th N. Y. V. C., New York .....	3 00
Mahoney, 170th N. Y. V., New York .....	5 00
Varse, 4th N. Y. H. A., New York .....	4 50
Rilcy, 173d N. Y. V., New York .....	5 00
Blatchley, 2d N. Y. H. A. ....	2 00
Mrs. M. Leavy, to go home to Binghamton .....	10 00
Wife of private Wilkeson, 147th N. Y. V., Oswego .....	10 50
McCarty, 73d N. Y. V. ....	5 00
Parsons, 51st N. Y. V. ....	4 00
Holmes, 111th N. Y. V. ....	4 50

To Wife of private Stratton, 105th N. Y. V.	\$5 00
Hanlon, 156th N. Y. V.	5 00
Snow, 9th Heavy Artillery	16 00
Sister of private Lawrencee, 77th N. Y. V.	16 00
Wife of private Casterline, 5th N. Y. H. A.	5 00
Thompson, 7th N. Y. H. A.	3 00
Loeker, 10th N. Y. H. A.	4 00
Mother of private Rufta, 6th N. Y. H. A.	3 00
Wife of private Holmes, 152d N. Y. V.	4 50
Mother of private Jermain, 155th N. Y. V.	2 00
Wife of private Farr, 10th N. Y. H. A.	10 00
Kean, 10th N. Y. H. A.	5 00
Rix, 8th N. Y. H. A.	5 00
Yates, 97th N. Y. V.	8 00
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	\$773 97

#### DUTIES OF AGENTS.

The duties of these agents are so numerous that it is impossible to enumerate all, but I mention the following :

1st. Assisting soldiers to get their descriptive lists and back pay.  
 2d. Assisting wounded soldiers to get furloughs.  
 3d. Assisting furloughed and discharged soldiers to get transportation to their homes.

4th. Examining and obtaining the discharge of soldiers so permanently diseased, that their continuance in the army or hospital is a useless expense to the government and an unnecessary separation from their families.

5th. Visiting the hospitals to ascertain the wants and condition of our soldiers, and seeing that they are properly cared for.

6th. Writing letters and attending to all the wants of the soldiers and the inquiries of their friends.

7th. Making a register of the sick and wounded, and transmitting it to the depot at New York.

8th. Securing to our soldiers the benefit of the provisions made for them by the general government, and supplying to soldiers such articles as are necessary for them which they cannot obtain in due season from the general government.

That the importance of these duties may be apparent to all, I give the following statement from Mrs. May, at Nashville, under date of June 7th, 1864 :

"The men are so far away from home that they seem to appreciate all I do for them, though sometimes it is hard for them to understand why a lady should leave her home and come down

here to attend to them. Yesterday an old man, from the 107th New York, was brought into the hospital (No. 1) very badly wounded, his pants perfectly filthy, and so covered with blood that the flies completely swarmed about him. He sat in a corner all alone, looking at me as I went from one to another supplying their wants—giving them clean cotton shirts, cotton drawers, also dark woolen drawers to do as pants while I had theirs washed for them. After I got through I went to him : ‘ What can I do for you ? ’ ‘ For me, for me. Oh ! kind lady, I am so dirty.’ ‘ Well,’ said I, ‘ I will soon have you fixed up nice and clean,’ at the same time giving him some clean clothes, and telling him to go to the bath-room, then to the barber’s and I would settle the bill for him. He sat perfectly still in wonderment, not seeming to understand me. I then told him who I was, and as he listened the tears trickled down his sunburnt face, and he said he never heard of such kindness to a poor old man. I need very much as soon as you can send \$300 or \$400, as I shall be obliged to purchase clothing and also fruit.”

Again, under date of June 21st, 1864, Mrs. May, after acknowledging the receipt of a draft for \$500, writes as follows :

“ I shall be obliged to purchase about one hundred pairs of pantaloons, as so many soldiers are brought in entirely destitute and in many cases are sent off again before drawing on the partial descriptive lists which they have lately furnished for this emergency, and it was for that purpose I telegraphed to you for funds. *I have seen many and many a poor fellow go away from this hospital with nothing on but drawers and shirt ; no socks, pants, coat or hat, tho' no New York man has gone so to my knowledge.*”

Mrs. May’s letters form her report hereto annexed, marked No. 18. This and other reports show the wisdom of the act in requiring the appointment of agents, instead of the distribution of the amount of the appropriation.

The appropriation, if distributed in money among the sick and wounded soldiers of this state, would hardly have exceeded five dollars to each man, and would have disappeared in less than six months.

The monthly expenditures of the sanitary commission during some months of the bloody campaign of the last summer, have exceeded in amount the whole of the state appropriation.

The great benefits derived by our soldiers from the services of

Dr. D. Z. Rogers, at New Orleans, are additional illustrations of the advantages of our system of agencies.

On his arrival at New Orleans, Dr. Rogers found that the transports which conveyed the sick from New Orleans to New York were generally loaded with cotton and sugar between decks, and the sick soldiers were accommodated in the hold of the vessels, many of them invalids, unable to help themselves, most of them destitute of bedding of any kind, and without ventilation or any provision made for their comfort.

These facts he brought to the notice of Gen. Banks, who placed the transportation not only of the New York soldiers, but of all invalid soldiers going east, in the charge of Dr. Rogers. He was furnished with ambulances for the removal of the sick from the hospitals to the transports, with provisions, medicines and nurses for them on the vessels, and he procured bedding for them, thus saving many lives, and doing all with little expense to this State.

I respectfully call your attention to other and similar services mentioned in Dr. Rogers' report, and also to the evidence which that report contains of the readiness shown by Gen. Banks to advance every effort made or suggested by Dr. Rogers for the relief of our soldiers. We will not forget Gen. Banks' order of June 12, 1864, in which he declares that "no steamers are too good for the transportation of sick and wounded men."

In conclusion I refer to all the reports hereto annexed, for the abundant evidence which they furnish of the benefits conferred by State agents and hospital visitors.

#### HOSPITAL VISITORS.

The duties of these hospital visitors are so well described by Dr. M. M. Bagg, in his report, that I give here the following extract from that report :

"Commencing the service on the 15th day of June, I continued to make daily visits to the hospitals until the 14th day of July. The institutions assigned me for most frequent visitation were Douglass and Stanton within the city, Finley and Eckington on its outskirts and Camp Stoneman near Giesboro. A thorough inspection of each ward of these general hospitals was made four times, and a similar inspection of Camp Stoneman three times; Campbell, Armory Square and several wards of Harewood were each twice gone over in the same manner, besides mere cursory visits—occasions for the most part by a call to execute therein some particu-

lar commission—to five other hospitals within the city, to those of the second division at Alexandria, to Fairfax Seminary hospital and to the Seminary hospital at Georgetown.

"It was my custom to repair in the morning to the office of the agency, where I received an assignment of my duties for the day, and a notification of any especial matters that needed attention. These commonly consisted of responses to applications for aid made by soldiers in the different institutions. Such applications, which were presented constantly and in large numbers, were placed for investigation in the hands of the visitors. Receiving my share of them, I set out for the hospital, making it my business while there to inquire not only into the cases already brought to my notice, but also, when time allowed, to see and converse with every New York soldier lying in its wards. I endeavored, in accordance with my instructions, while dropping him a word of sympathy and encouragement, to ascertain what were his wants ; if he needed anything which was not supplied by the hospital authorities, such as clothing, cordials and delicacies to quicken a languid appetite, writing materials or an amanuensis, tobacco, &c., &c. ; if he suffered from neglect on the part of the nurses, ward masters or other attendants ; if any portion of his State bounty or of his pay from the general government was still due him—in short, if he stood in need of anything that a sick or wounded soldier ought to have, and which his own State could and ought to furnish. At the close of each day's visitation, returns were made to Col. North, which included, besides a general statement of the condition of the hospital and its inmates, a complete list of all the necessities made known by the patients. On the following day the required articles were carried by porters of the office to the ward masters of the various wards, to be by them distributed, if approved by the surgeons of the needy expectants. Measures were also taken to secure back pay, whether from the State or the United States, to those who claimed to be entitled thereto. In the former case, that namely where some portion of the State bounty was still due, these consisted in procuring from the agent of the Paymaster General of New York the requisite blanks, and conveying them to the soldier for his signature. In the latter case the course pursued was to inform the regimental paymaster, if resident in the city of Washington, of the fact that such claimants were in the city and in want, and the name and numbers of the hospital, ward and bed where they might be found. The necessi-

ties of every kind were in each case relieved as far as was practicable; the articles they had asked for, it was ascertained on a subsequent visit, had been brought them; communication had been opened with their paymaster, while the form necessary to enable them to draw the State bounty, myself or some other visitor had the pleasure of putting into their hands. Complaints which were at any time made of neglect by the subordinates of the hospital were at once brought to the notice of the surgeon in charge of the institution from which they emanated."

I close this statement of the benefits of State agencies with the following beautiful quotation from Col. North's report for the year 1863 :

"The sick soldier in hospital, away from the home for which his heart yearns, is peculiarly sensitive to overtures of kindness. The presence of sympathy and gentle offerings of friendship are often more efficacious in restoring him to health than the most skillful compounds or nicely administered prescriptions of the physician. Even when, as must so often be the case, the gratification of his wish or the satisfactory solution of his difficulty is impracticable under the stern rules of army administration, or through inevitable defects of vouchers and certificates, yet he goes back to duty or to suffering, relieved and cheered by the fact that kind interest in his case and active efforts to help him have been placed near him, and at his call, by the State in which his home is, and in whose citizenship he learned to love his country and to peril his life for it."

This is the language of a warm heart and of a good citizen.

It has been a matter of no small difficulty to purchase needful supplies for our soldiers, and to continue in full efficiency the different agencies for their relief through the year on an appropriation which was less than some of the monthly expenditures of the Sanitary Commission.

In the fall of 1863, I purposed calling upon the different Soldiers' Aid Societies throughout the State for supplies; but from an unwillingness to disturb the source of supply of the Sanitary Commission, the following agreement was entered into and continued in force until the latter part of August, when it was terminated by a notice from the Sanitary Commission, a copy of which will be found immediately after the copy of the agreement here given:

## (Copy.)

*Memorandum of an arrangement entered into by and between the Agency for the relief of the New York State Soldiers and the United States Sanitary Commission, this 29th day of December, 1863.*

*Whereas,* The Sanitary Commission has labored to collect into one common store house all the voluntary supplies for the sick and wounded of the army, in order to secure the most equal distribution, according to existing needs, among the soldiers fighting in a common cause, and at the same time to furnish all facilities for administering relief to the special agents of those States, which are contributing so largely to the stores of this commission, and

*Whereas,* The General Agent of the State of New York, is unwilling to disturb the channel, through which the contributions of its citizens already flow to the Sanitary Commission; therefore,

The following arrangement is entered into:

John F. Seymour, as General Agent for the relief of sick and wounded soldiers of the State of New York, will (with full consent of the donors) co-operate in directing all supplies to the store houses of the Sanitary Commission, and will draw upon said store houses.

The Sanitary Commission will fill requisitions for "individual relief," made or endorsed by the Agents of the State of New York, duly accredited to said Commission for this purpose, and likewise the requisitions from the respective offices of these Agents, to meet cases of individuals applying to them for relief; and will fill from their store houses requisitions for a larger amount of supplies to be used for patients in hospitals made by the same duly accredited Agents, *with the usual approval of the Surgeons* in charge, so far as the equal care of all sick and wounded soldiers will justify.

The above mentioned distributions to patients in hospitals will be made by the Agents of the State of New York.

If for any reason it should be deemed desirable by either party to terminate this arrangement, it can be done by giving thirty days notice to the other party.

[Signed] JOHN F. SEYMOUR, *General Agent, &c.*  
HENRY W. BELLOWS, *President U. S. San. Com.*

U. S. SANITARY COMMISSION, 823 BROADWAY,  
NEW YORK, July 28th, 1864.

JOHN F. SEYMOUR, Esq.,

*General Agent of the State of New York,  
for the relief of its sick and wounded soldiers:*

Dear Sir—I am instructed by the standing committee of the U. S. Sanitary Commission, to notify you that they feel compelled to terminate the arrangement entered into on the 29th day of December last, by yourself, on the part of the State of New York, and the Rev. Dr. Bellows, on the part of the U. S. Sanitary Commission, pertaining to the relations of the Commission with the New York State Agency.

The practical working of the agreement leads to such disproportionate supply of the demands for soldiers from the State of New York, as compared with those of other national soldiers, that the committee in view of the calls upon its resources and the present and prospective condition of its store houses, is reluctantly obliged to give the notice of discontinuance of the arrangement, which is provided for in the closing sentence of the agreement executed as above stated on the 29th day of December, 1863.

Will you do me the favor to inform me whether you are willing to waive the 30 days' notice, and to consider the agreement annulled, from date or any other period.

Very respectfully yours,

J. FOSTER JENKINS,

*General Secretary.*

Without this arrangement, or without assistance from local societies throughout the State, we could not have made our agencies as useful as they have been to our soldiers.

I am much indebted to Col. North in the making of this arrangement.

It has been a matter of much doubt among our agents, whether it would not have been better to have relied upon local societies throughout the State for our supplies, and unless the sanitary commission renew the arrangement, I recommend an appeal to soldiers' aid societies throughout the State to send supplies to the State agencies.

This recommendation does not arise from any hostility to the commission, but from the necessity of having supplies at the different agencies. It is due to the sanitary commission to state,

that it has not ceased to honor our requisitions, although it has terminated the agreement.

I call your attention to a report of Dr. Dimon, under the date of May 28th, on account of the interesting information it gives, and also because of the merited compliment it pays to officers of the United States medical department at Fortress Monroe. A similar tribute is due to Dr. John M. Cuyler and his assistants for their efficiency and unceasing labor at Belle Plain; Dr. Dalton and his assistants, at Fredericksburgh, and to Dr. Thurston and Major Wentz, for their labors in moving the wounded from Fredericksburgh, by the railroad, to Acquia Creek. These officers worked day and night, and it is a wonder to those who have witnessed their labors that they could endure so much and so long.

The whole medical department has been efficiently and carefully managed. I do not mean to say that mistakes have not been made; the constant and the casual observer will both see them; the latter may think there are nothing but mistakes, but they are really only like the eddies found in every flood running counter to the main current. There was literally a great stream of supplies, ambulances and reinforcements flowing to Belle Plain, and finding its way thence to Fredericksburgh and to the army; the tramp of men and the rumble of ambulances and supply wagons on the wharf at Belle Plain was unceasing day and night; the wharf was in shape like the letter V. On one side lay the barges to receive the wounded as they were brought on the wharf in ambulances and army wagons, on the other side were the supply boats from which the wagons were reloaded with supplies and rations. To receive the wounded men, take them from the ambulances and stretchers, place them on barges to be floated to the transports. To see that they were fed and cared for on their way to Washington, their wounds dressed, &c., and at the same time receive the supplies and rations constantly arriving from Washington and having them loaded and dispatched to the wounded and to the army, was a herculean task, and it was well performed in spite of the confusion incident to such a scene.

I wish also to give my testimony to the efficiency of the sanitary and christian commissions. Twice I went to Belle Plain on board of steamers of the sanitary commission which were constantly occupied in carrying supplies to the wounded. I found on board of one of these steamers named the Mary Rapley, bales of straw for the wounded at Fredericksburg, brooms for the hospitals, 556

pillow ticks, 250 bed-ticks, 735 pairs of crutches, 135 pairs of scissors for nurses, and boxes of beef tea and condensed milk, 1,900 tin cups and other artieles which the wounded require. That commission had also 29 wagons in which to take supplies from Belle Plain to Fredericksburg. On our way to Belle Plain, we passed Washington's house and Washington's tomb, which we imagined were sorrowful witnesses of the steamboat loads of wounded and dying men daily and nightly passing up the Potomac, but as we saw the loads of fresh troops and supplies passing down the Potomae, we were equally impressed with the wonderful resourees of the North and with the industry and energy whieh drew from these resources such steady streams for the support of the great army in the field and for the sick and wounded in hospitals. The war department and all the medical department have perfqrmed wonders, and are entitled to the highest praise for their system and energy. I can imagine but one improvement, and that is, that the medical department should have its own means of transportation independently of that used by other departments.

I found Mrs. R. H. Speneer at Belle Plain helping all soldiers without distinotion of states. Doctors Babeoek, Chamberlaine, Goff, Post and Maxon, who were taken by me to Belle Plain, dressed the wounds of all soldiers who applied to them, and such was the demand for this kind of assistance, that I found myself engaged in this strange business. The labor and exeiting scenes at Belle Plain were too much for the strength and health of almost all our assistants. Very few of them have escaped subsequent illness and continued prostration of nervous energy. The ladies who have been employed by the New York State ageney, have proved very useful. They have thus far proved more enduring and less liable to sickness from exposure at hospitals, than our other agents. I advise the continuance of their services at hospitals. I recommend the employment in our offices of disabled soldiers, and I also recommend the employment at each ageney of one or more surgeons who have been in the serviee of the United States government as volunteer surgeons. They only are competent to judge whether our soldiers in hospitals have the benefit of that medical and surgical skill to which they are entitled.

The law under whieh the State ageneies have been established anthorizes the Governor to take the entire appropriation from the Treasury, and to furnish vouchers afterwards. It has been our endeavor, in accordance with your wishes, to reverse this order as

far as possible, and to call upon your excellency only for money already expended, upon vouchers of its actual expenditure, or upon vouchers of actual indebtedness. Under ordinary circumstances and with regular employees this has been done, but after a battle like that of Gettysburg, or during a campaign like that of the past summer, the money must be had in advance, and we should have been compelled to resort directly to the relief fund, without vouchers, but for the patriotic liberality of Mr. Frederick S. Winston, of New York. He has accepted and paid the drafts of the agency without any compensation save the thanks of the Governor of the State, and of the Board of Managers of the New York State Soldiers' Depot, and of the New York State Agency. These drafts, with affidavits of expenditures, were subsequently presented to the Comptroller and paid, upon your order. These are the drafts mentioned in the annexed statement of expenditures herewith submitted to you :

*Detailed statement of expenditures in 1863 and 1864, for the relief of sick and wounded soldiers, exclusive of New York State Soldiers' Depot :*

For the payment of agents, surgeons and hospital visitors, employed in the assistance of sick and wounded soldiers of this State, at the agencies at Philadelphia, Baltimore, Norfolk, Washington, Alexandria, in the field, with the Army of the Potomac; at Louisville, Kentucky; at Nashville, Tennessee; and at New Orleans, during 1863 and 1864----- \$49,106 16

Expenses of the Agents, board and travel, 1863 and

1864 -----	12,574	16
Printing report of General Agent for 1863 -----	755	80
Postage for agencies -----	671	11
Telegraphs -----	144	36
Printing blanks, cards, &c., and advertising-----	131	00
Advances to destitute soldiers and wives of the same-----	626	35
Compensation of clerks-----	361	48
Supplies for soldiers-----	3,269	93
Stimulants for 1863, \$443.51; for 1864, \$576.38 -----	1,019	89
Tobacco for 1863, \$55.75; for 1864, \$708.65 -----	764	40
Office rent -----	2,089	76
Stationery for offices and soldiers -----	1,484	22
Office expenses -----	1,208	44
Advances for relief of sick soldiers at Baltimore-----	200	00
Miscellaneous expenditures -----	284	13
Transportation of soldiers, of supplies and remains of deceased soldiers-----	1,969	98
Medical stores -----	284	95
Hospital furniture, Elmira -----	100	00

Expenses of A. J. Parker, W. Kelly and W. F. Allen, Commissioners to Washington and clerks	\$308 95
Turkey for thanksgiving dinner of New York soldiers in hospitals at Washington	422 85
Fuel for offices	324 17
Clothing, &c., for destitute soldiers	1,291 69
Procuring hospital records	331 19
Advancee to Mr. Ferry, for returned prisoners at Annapolis	110 00
Advance to Mrs. B. L. Hovey, for relief at Louisville	100 00
Vegetables, fruits and preserved meats for army of Potomac, Hilton Head and Harper's Ferry	9,548 71
J. S. Neville, apples to Charleston and Norfolk	343 00
Drafts on F. S. Winston	23,195 81
Expenses at Quarantine in preparing buildings for use as hospitals, by George Bliss, jr., in 1862	2,893 75
Sanitary Commission, for relief at Gettysburgh	500 00
Obtaining names and places of burial of New York State Volunteers at Gettysburgh, crutches for wounded soldiers, and for expenses of Dr. Theodore Dimon and others at Gettysburgh	200 00
Opening agency office, and procuring books for same, at Philadelphia	100 00
G. W. Buck, services and expenses visiting Riker's Island	62 00
Balanee of prisoner's relief fund paid into the Treasury January 9th, 1865	111 92
Total expenses of agencies for 1863 and 1864..	\$116,890 16

#### CEMETERIES FOR SOLDIERS KILLED AT GETTYSBURG AND ANTIETAM.

By virtue of chapter 392 of the Laws of 1864, the Comptroller is authorized to pay, upon the requisition of the Governor, the sum of thirty thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, from the unexpended balance of the appropriation of two hundred thousand dollars for soldiers' relief, for the purpose of defraying that portion of the expenses apportioned to the State by the Commissioners of the Soldiers' National Cemetery at Gettysburg, and also for the purchase of ten acres of land near Sharpsburgh.

The share of the expenses of the Cemetery at Gettysburgh apportioned to the State amounts to \$13,123.33. Of this sum, two instalments only have been called for; they amount to \$6,520, and have been paid.

With reference to the purchase of land near Sharpsburgh, for

the purpose of a Cemetery, we can only report that the State of Maryland passed an act for the purchase of ten acres of ground for the Cemetery, and authorizing this State to unite in that purchase ; and therefore Mr. James M. Redfield, of Batavia, was appointed to represent this State in the purchase and in the preparation of the Cemetery ; but owing to a defect in the title of the land selected, and also to the incursions of rebel forces into Maryland, nothing further has been accomplished, as will appear from Mr. Redfield's report hereto annexed, marked No. 19.

It is to be hoped that the difficulties which have prevented the gathering of the remains of our soldiers into a national cemetery at Sharpsburg will not continue through another year.

A list of the names of those buried near Sharpsburg, together with a statement of the places where they are buried, will be found in my last annual report, commencing on page 67 of that report as published by itself, and on page 106 of that report as printed in connection with the report of the Board of Managers of the New York State Soldiers' Depot.

A copy of the act of the legislature of the State of Maryland, authorizing the cemetery at Sharpsburg, and also authorizing the State of New York to unite with Maryland in the purchase of land for the purposes of the cemetery, will be found hereto annexed, marked document No. 20.

The temporary closing of the agencies at Baltimore and Washington, and the arrest and imprisonment of M. J. Ferry, M. M. Jones, and Col. North and Mr. Cohen, would be fully set forth in this report, but the charges and proceedings before the military commission, and the testimony of the witnesses before that commission, are not yet sufficiently known.

M. J. Ferry was appointed by me in July, 1863, to assist the wounded as they arrived at Baltimore from Gettysburg. This appointment was made without reference to political considerations, and on the necessity of the occasion at Baltimore, where I accidentally met him. He was continued in the service because of his efficiency, and it is due to him to state that up to the time of the offense of which the military commission has convicted him, he was one of our most useful agents.

M. M. Jones entered the army as a volunteer at the commencement of the war. He was subsequently taken and held as a prisoner at Richmond, and upon his return to Utica was so active in

all efforts to aid soldiers, that he was selected as an hospital visitor at Washington.

Mr. Cohen is a clerk in the office of the Paymaster General of this State, and is a young man of good reputation.

Col. Samuel North is well known throughout the State, and I heartily endorse the tribute paid to him at the close of the report of the Rev. J. V. Van Ingen, which report is the first hereto annexed.

Col. North, M. M. Jones and Mr. Cohen are still in the Old Capitol prison at Washington, while being tried before a military commission upon the charge of a conspiracy to commit frauds upon soldiers' votes. No adequate report of their case can now be made, but it is due from me to them that I should here state my belief in their innocence of any fraud, and my hope of their acquittal.

Charges of fraud upon the elective franchise should be investigated, and the crime when committed should be punished by the proper tribunal. But it is difficult to see how these men come within the jurisdiction of a military commission. They are not military men in any sense. Like the agents of the Sanitary and Christian Commissions their power and jurisdiction is one of relief only.

In closing this report I desire, in behalf of myself and other State agents, to thank you for the opportunities which you have given us to relieve the wants of the sick and wounded and destitute soldiers of the State of New York in hospitals and on the field.

JOHN F. SEYMOUR.

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( No. 1. )

WASHINGTON REPORT.

JOHN F. SEYMOUR, Esq.,

Dear Sir—The unhappy interruption of the business of the office in October, by which it was then, and has ever since been deprived of the efficient oversight of its most active and laborious head, has necessarily devolved upon others the preparation of this report. The same cause must render it less full, and consequently less satisfactory.

A general outline and classification of the regular work of the office will be found on page 74 of last year's report. In each of

the classes of the work there enumerated there has been large increase, rather than diminution of services, during the twelve months embraced in this report. It need only be referred to here as a minute detail of most of the kinds of service claiming the attention of the agency.

But in order to a more comprehensive view of the nature and value of this department of the care of the State for her soldiers, the work of the office (all placed under the general control and headship of Col. North) may properly receive this larger classification, viz. :

*First.* Into the military and medical departments.

The military department again sub-divided as follows :

1. Business communications with the War Department, referred to Col. John Bradley, as his specialty.

2. Correspondence with the State authorities, and general correspondence, Col. North and clerks.

3. *Special relief* to soldiers in hospital; in *transitu*, and in the field; soliciting aid and counsel in the disentanglement of their accounts or the adjustment of their regimental relations; in obtaining furloughs for special causes, and invoking State interference under real or imaginary wrong; and within the whole circuit of the department of Washington, daily applications in person or through hospital visitors, asking clothing and other means of bodily comfort.

4. Relief and counsel to the friends and kindred of soldiers seeking it in person or by letter.

5. The cases of imprisoned citizens seeking counsel and assistance and personal interviews; and of these a large class charged with desertion, but claiming, as the event has often proved, never to have been soldiers; and the relief of such after release from prison, and their transportation to their homes.

6. The department of payment of State bounties having a desk in the office during a great part of the year has added materially to the throng of applicants, and to the efficiency of relief afforded.

7. The Agency at Alexandria, including both male and female hospital visitors has been, in the direction of the persons employed, in seeing them furnished with supplies, and in the entire responsibility of its management and expense, a part of the charge and care of the office at Washington.

Such is a general outline of the interior of the Washington office, exclusive of

## THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT,

Whose officers have been kept constantly occupied in personal inspection of cases of sick and wounded, desiring transfer to hospitals near their homes, furloughs, exemptions from duty, or final discharges for disability.

The brief and modest but expressive report of Dr. Dwinelle is here inserted at large, as comprehending, in few but well weighed words, the uses and importance of the department.

Dr. Dwinelle has been a most courteous and indefatigable officer never absent from his post and never neglecting any of its details

NEW YORK STATE AGENCY, 181 PENNSYLVANIA AVE. }  
WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 22, 1864. }

To JOHN F. SEYMOUR, Esq.:

Agreeable to your directions I became a member of the medical department of this agency the 1st day of October, and have been on duty here constantly since. It has been my particular province to answer communications from our State soldiers, and to examine those who presented themselves in reference to furloughs, transfers to their own State and for discharges from the service.

The form of relief to which the duties of the medical agent refer themselves gives occasion for the fullest occupation of his time, and will be recognized upon reflection as appealing more than any other to the care and interest of the State.

In all instances that have seemed worthy of serious consideration I have made application by letter, setting forth their particular merits to the Surgeon General, Medical Director, or to the surgeons in charge of general hospitals, with a request for a special examination.

The applications have been numerous, and have been met with respectful consideration. The results of the examinations show that they have been carefully made, and they have been generally satisfactory.

Respectfully submitted,

JUSTIN DWINELLE.

The daily applications under the heads above enumerated have furnished to those in charge of the office abundant work, and the largest exercise of interest and sympathy, and could the daily record of cases be written fully, as it cannot, it would be a proud and touching monument of the paternal care and interest of the

State, in the multitude of her sons, sent forth to serve and suffer for the National integrity and life.

To you sir, and to those who have been co-workers with you, the experience of labors in the Soldiers' Relief Agency will be cherished in memory, as foremost among the privileged opportunities of duty.

It remains only that I add some statistics of the details of work in the office. They convey but an imperfect idea of the nature and extent of the services performed.

I begin with the statement of applications in person at this office for counsel, for material assistance and for the interference of the agency in promoting their relief. The total number of applications under this head, the number to whom assistance has been rendered, cannot be put at less than 25,000.

Number of commissions received from the adjutant-general's office for the State of New York, for officers in the service, inspected, registered and transmitted from this office, to their destination through the war office of the United States, as reported by Col. Bradley, December 20th, 1864, 3,132. Number of other communications received and transmitted in like manner, 2,641, as reported by Col. Bradley, December 20th.

Number of letters necessarily written on business pertaining to the office, including among others large correspondence with the authorities of the State, with the officers and enlisted men of our volunteer organizations, in all parts of the field, with patients in hospitals and the officers in charge of them, the citizens and soldiers in military prisons and with their friends, 16,000.

Number of certificates of citizenship and loyalty granted to citizens of the State of New York applying at this office for passes from the provost marshal's office for visiting interdicted positions, occupied by our troops, in reference to their sick husbands and brothers, from wounds or other causes, or the removal of such as had fallen in battle (number, including those who had for their object employment by the government), 3,035.

#### HOSPITAL RECORD.

A book was opened on May 1st, 1864, in this office under special charge of recording clerk Capt. S. V. Peet, for record of sick and wounded New York soldiers admitted to the hospitals in and about Washington. This service continued till the end of October, and exhibits under their separate organizations, the names of 21,388 New York enlisted men.

The *Invalid Corps*, now recognized as the Veteran Reserve Corps, has absorbed into its organization very large numbers of New York volunteers, transferred into it from their original organizations, for greater or less degrees of disability for field servicee. A very large portion of these troops, including nearly all the more seriously disabled, are stationed in and about Washington, and though wholly separated from state relations and control, they still look to their own state ageney for eounsel and relief, and add largely to the crowd of applicants at the office.

#### RELIEF TO WIVES AND OTHER FEMALE KINDRED OF SOLDIERS.

Among the appliciations appealing most painfully to the sympathies of those in charge at the ageney, have been those of wives and mothers and sisters of sick or deeeased soldiers, who, having expended their little means in reaehing Washington and watching beside their sick or dying kindred, have found themselves destitute and without any means of return to their homes. The state ageney was their natural and legitimate resort for sympathy and relief. Very many of these persons have come to us with a passionate desire to carry home with them the remains of the kindred whose eyes they had elosed in the hospital. Whether the state appropriation contemplated the exhausting drain upon the fund involved, in defraying the expense of the removal of the remains of soldiers to their homes, is regarded as very doubtful.

But no legal provision exists for applying its funds to the travelling expenses of soldiers' kindred. These touehing elaims have been met by contributions of private bounty amounting, sinez June 16, 1864, to Oetober 31st, \$735, divided among eighty-six eases.

It is but justiee to add that in many of these instances the contribution at the ageney was supplemented and increased by grants from a speeial fund at the Sanitary Commission, and that many others were wholly supplied from the latter souree.

Relief will continue to be sought by this class of applicants, so long as there are sick in our hospitals and wounded in the field. For reasons which will be obvious on the least refleetion, provision for these eases from the public funds would only multiply them indefinitely ; they can only be met by a deposit of private bounty at the agency, to be used with great diseretion.

Whether provision for the removal of deeeased soldiers to their homes should be distinctly embraeed in the State Relief Appropriation, and with what limitations, are questions submitted

to the State authorities. By several States, contracts at low rates have been made with railroad and express companies, which have proved a great boon to the bereaved citizen.

#### HOSPITAL VISITING.

A system of daily visitation of New York soldiers in hospitals, by male and female visitors, and daily report of cases for relief, has been maintained in connection with the agency during the entire year, but on a greatly enlarged scale since the opening of the spring campaign.

Supplies for effectuating the objects of these visits have been derived from funds and material placed by you at the disposal of the agent; from the stores of the United States Sanitary Commission, and from generous contributions, both in money and kind, by local associations of patriotic citizens.

The voluntary service and unflagging devotion of one lady from Utica, who has given the entire summer and autumn to this work, deserves a record, which is here most cheerfully and heartily made.

This summary, properly the work of another, ought not to be closed without a record of the estimate which more than a year and a half of joint services has suggested and warranted, of the character and quality of the public services of the officer who, for that period, has been charged with the oversight and care of the Washington Agency for New York soldiers. For administrative ability, for faithful diligence, for comprehensive plans and energetic decision, for honest guardianship of funds entrusted to him, and for uniform and unwearied courtesy and kindness to all applicants and comers, Col. Samuel North has deserved and received from those who saw most of him, the cheerful tribute of a rank in these respects, among the foremost of those employed and tried in the severe ordeal of public service.

All which is respectfully submitted.

J. V. VAN INGEN, *N. Y. S. Field Agent,*

*Assigned to the duty of making this report.*

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec., 1864.

NEW YORK STATE AGENCY, 181 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE,  
WASHINGTON, December, 1864.

Hon. J. F. SEYMOUR,

*Gen. Agent of the State of New York, for the relief of  
sick, wounded, furloughed and discharged soldiers :*

Sir—In the month of March, 1863, I was appointed by his excellency, Gov. Seymour, Medical Commissioner for the State of New York, to proceed to Washington, visit the U. S. General Hospitals of Washington, Alexandria and vicinity (Department of Washington), ascertain the condition, care and wants of the New York State soldiers, and give them such aid and assistance as they might require, procure for them furloughs and transfers, when, upon examination by the surgeons in charge of hospitals, they were proper subjects for such privileges, and bring to the notice of the surgeons in charge the condition of those soldiers who were totally unfit either for field service or the Veteran Reserve Corps; also to assist our soldiers in procuring arrears of pay, settlement of claims against Government, the relatives of deceased soldiers to procure their pensions, &c.; in short, to learn and relieve the multitudinous wishes and wants of our soldiers, their relatives and friends; also, to act as Volunteer Surgeon, with the corps of assistant surgeons and nurses, when our services were needed, in conformity with the regulation and discipline of the hospitals or camps, and to report the conditions of our soldiers and our labor in their behalf to his excellency, Gov. Seymour, at the executive department at Albany.

On my arrival at Washington, I called upon Surgeon General W. A. Hammond, U. S. A., and presented my commission, together with the letter of instructions relative to my mission, and asked of him such authority to carry out the design of my office as he might deem necessary or expedient, whereupon he gave me an official paper, of which the following is a copy:

SURGEON GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
WASHINGTON CITY, D. C., March 20, 1863.

Dr. James L. Babcock having been appointed by the Governor of New York as agent to visit the hospitals of Washington and vicinity, and examine into the condition of the New York soldiers who may be sick or wounded inmates, surgeons in charge are directed to afford him every proper facility in the discharge of his duties.

[Signed],

WM. A. HAMMOND,

*Surgeon General U. S. A.*

Dr. Hammond also requested me to report to him any want of attention on the part of the surgeons in charge, or any negleet in cleanliness or the sanitary regulations of the hospitals. Thus officially reeognized I entered immediately upon the duties of my office, visiting the different hospitals of Washington, Alexandria and vicinity, stating to the surgeons in charge the obejet of my visit, and sought out the New York soldiers, apprising them of the wishes and purpose of the Governor in their behalf, and gave them such aid and assistance as their conditions and situations seemed to require.

Subsequently, when you beeame the general agent for the care and relief of the sick and wounded soldiers of New York, and the head of the ageney, our office was advertised and handbills of its loeation posted in the various hospitals, and office eards eirculated for the benefit of our soldiers, requesting such as needed assistance to eall at the office, if able—if not able, to write their name, regiment, company, hospital, ward and number of bed upon the eard, and send the same with this endorsement to our office, when we would visit them and render suitable assistance. This thorough system of attention to our soldiers soon made our labors very arduous, and it beeame necessary for you to increase the force of the office. We found it neessary to systematize the business, and two bureaus were established—one the military, under Col. North, and the other the medieal, under my charge. The rapidly increasing business and utility of the office being generally known, our soldiers almost invariably applied to us, either personally at the office, or by letter, or through the eards introduced in the hospitals by your direetion, when supplies would be furnished ; and those physieally disabled requesting furlough, transfer or discharge, would be examined, and if proper subjects for what they asked, applieation made from our office to the proper authorities. Under the amount of business which resulted from the inreasing number of applieations for examination at the office, it beeame incumbent upon me to remain at my desk unless in speial eases requiring my personal attention at the hospitals, or during active eampaigns, where with surgeons, nurses and supplies we extended our labors to the battle-field, for the care and relief of our wounded there.

The business of the ageney has rapidly inreased. When I first came here, two were sufficient to transact all the duties, and close at 3 P. M. Now it requires a much larger number, and the office

is open from early morning until night. During the last campaign it required from six to ten in the office, and as many more to visit the hospitals, dispensing charities and supplies, besides my services with a corps of surgeons and nurses in the field, to meet the wants of our wounded there. The office became a centre, towards which our soldiers and their friends were attracted. The first place at which the citizens of New York make inquiries for their sick or wounded friends in the service, is at the New York State agency. Its influence and usefulness is now so generally known and appreciated, that although originally intended to meet the applications in this department and furnish information to friends at home, it has not been limited to this department alone. Our duties and labors have extended from Buffalo to New Orleans—from the hospitals at Providence, R. I., to St. Louis—wherever our soldiers are requiring aid or assistance. During the last campaign, from the first movement of our army across the Rapidan until it reached City Point and before Petersburg, we as representatives of the agency, have accompanied its march with a corps of surgeons, nurses and supplies, attending our wounded and caring for them.

#### BELLE PLAIN AND FREDERICKSBURGH.

When the first movements of our army across the Rapidan (May 4, 1864) was made, and the announcement that a sanguinary battle was being fought and that surgeons and assistants were needed, we procured transportation for myself and a corps of assistants, and proceeded to Belle Plain. We found our wounded soldiers arriving by thousands, some in army wagons, some in ambulances and others on foot, the latter, from the character of their injuries, preferring walking to the jolting of the wagons. The wounds of nearly all of them had been dressed before leaving the field, and being chiefly of the upper extremities, were better able to travel and bear transportation, and without stopping at Fredericksburgh came directly to Belle Plain, to be conveyed by transports to Washington. At this time there was but one tent with supplies at Belle Plain, which was eagerly sought by the wounded to get a cup of coffee or something to eat, stating that it was the first they had received for three days, while others would rush in wild disorder to the wharves where lay the transports to convey them to Washington. Long trains filled with the more serious cases of wounded arrived during the following night and morning. Their wounds

were of every description and character, some with arms and limbs shot away, while others were torn with shell or pierced with bullets. There is no spot on the human form that did not bear marks of the carnage of those few days. Many died on the way from sheer exhaustion or loss of blood. The long trains of ambulances and wagons bringing in the wounded extended for miles, as far as the eye could reach, and, following the tortuous windings of the road, seemed like a huge monster uncoiling its endless length. That morning tents began to rise here and there, and by afternoon the hills and valleys of Belle Plain were dotted with white. Into these the wounded were placed until they could be provided transportation, for their arrival in such large numbers made it necessary to wait for accommodation on board the transport boats. We remained here but a couple of days, operating and dressing wounds, when word was sent that our services were much needed at Fredericksburgh; and ambulances being provided, and a squad of cavalry detailed as an escort, we proceeded to that place.

Belle Plain is situated on the Potomac creek, an inlet of the Potomac, about two miles from the river. From its appearance it seemed to be a new point selected for the landing of the transports, as the wharves had just been erected. Belle Plain proper was further up the creek. A short distance from the wharf, over the first rise of ground, in a basin formed by the surrounding hills, were eight thousand rebel prisoners, captured by General Hancock, and under a strong guard to prevent their escape.

The country around Belle Plain and extending to Fredericksburgh is a bleak, dreary wilderness of thick undergrowth, and desolate. The route to Fredericksburgh is over a corduroy road, one of the worst that can be imagined, through a broken and hilly country, with scarcely a building on the way, or any evidence of civilization, save a few log houses and a dilapidated church.\* It is just the field for the operations of guerrillas.

It is over this road that the wounded have to be carried to Belle Plain, in wagons and ambulances, and all the supplies for the army of General Grant are taken by the same road, almost impassable at times, and threatened on the entire route by roving bands. The destruction of the railroad bridge at Rappahannock station, immediately after the first movement of the army, caused Government to select this route of communication. At this time the road was crowded with wounded, in the trains and on foot

\* The ruins of the famous "White Oak Church."

literally filling up the sides of the road. Those not finding room to ride, if they could carry or drag themselves along by aid of staffs, used as crutches, eagerly pressed on the way to reach Belle Plain, where they not only expected to find transports to Washington, but could obtain subsistance. It was indeed pitiful to hear the groans of the wounded, in those unwieldy army wagons, and their sharp cry as the wheels would strike into a rut, or jolt over the logs of this corduroy road. Crossing the pontoon bridge over the Rappahannock, we arrived in Fredericksburgh, (which is fourteen miles from Belle Plain) late in the afternoon. The city was comparatively deserted by its former inhabitants, of whom not more than ten or twelve hundred, mostly females, remained. It was guarded by about one thousand Union troops. Passing through the city up to headquarters to report for duty, on the way groups of wounded soldiers could be seen gathered around the wells, pumps and springs, dressing each others wounds. Some of them were half naked and stated that they had had no food for several days.

The scene at Fredericksburgh cannot be described, or the casualties enumerated, the distress, suffering, and want of our soldiers were beyond description. The most lamentable and offensive sight was that presented by those who had been wounded in making a charge, and falling between the lines of battle, or exposed to pitiless storms in the dense woods, unable to get off the field, or be brought away, their comrades not daring to venture to their relief, if within musket range of the enemy. They had, consequently, to remain where they fell for several days, and when brought in, half famished and exhausted, their wounds filled with animaculæ, presented to us truly pitiable objects for our care and sympathy. The shell wounds were fearful, mangled, torn, dismembered, the spectacle they presented was terrible. A single case will give an idea of some of the injuries: A soldier had been deployed as sharpshooter along the skirmish line, and while lying down with his face to the ground in the attitude of firing, was struck by a minie ball from the enemy. The ball entered his right arm, which was partially extended along his piece (in position to fire,) posteriorly about two inches above the elbow joint, passing obliquely upward and inward, made its exit near the shoulder, continuing in its course striking the right malar or cheek bone below its prominence, ploughing through the face, severing the nose at the bridge and passing out just below the outer angle of the

left eye without injury to either. Both eyes were closed by the tumefaction. The wound with its edges everted, and suppurating, presented a horrible appearance, and it seemed as if the face had been severed from the skull and the upper jaw separated from it two inches. "Oh, war, war, war!" nothing but war could do this, exclaimed a surgeon as he came in sight of it. We talked with him, removed some small pieces of bone and dressed the wound which only required to be put in position and covered with cold water dressings. He seemed much relieved upon being informed that it was not necessarily fatal. Upon being asked if he was married he answered in the negative, and inquired if the wound was going to mar his good looks, at the same time trying to get up a smile, but the effort was evidently on the *wrong side* of the face. With the dressings his face had again assumed something of a human appearance. Wounds of the face are proverbial for their quick and complete recovery, and in the absence of any complication, he undoubtedly was soon well, with no worse deformity than a scar across his face.

About every other building in Fredericksburgh was a hospital. Churches, public buildings, stores, dwellings, barns and sheds were converted into hospitals, filled with wounded lying on the seats, in the pews, aisles and porches of the churches, and on the floors of the other buildings, without a blanket or even straw under them. The country had been literally swept by both armies, and neither hay nor straw was left to make a bed for the wounded sufferers. More were constantly arriving, and the heavy booming of cannon constantly heard in quick succession, was sure evidence that the end was not yet. The shrieks of the wounded and the groans of the dying, mingled with the roar of artillery, made the scene before us appalling. "At one time" (May 9th), says a correspondent, "the wounded arrived from the front at Fredericksburgh in such large numbers that they lay in the streets and upon the pavements. A cavalry patrol ordered out, could not do duty, as it was difficult to pass between the rows of wounded without trampling upon them." In short, Fredericksburgh was a general hospital, without either food or medical stores. The fault in not having food and medical stores did not, however, belong to the medical department. Surgeon-General J. K. Barnes, U. S. A., had made ample provision for the emergency, and the supplies and stores were turned over to the quarter-master's department for transportation on the first movement of the army, and had

been put on board the cars to be carried directly to Fredericksburgh, but upon arrival at Rappahannock Station, it was discovered that the bridge there was destroyed. The supplies then had to go back to Washington and be transferred to the transport boats, carried to Belle Plain, and thence in wagons to Fredericksburgh. Thus the delay and want of everything.

On our arrival, we immediately commenced our labors, visiting the hospitals, dressing the wounded, when we could get anything for the purpose, doing what we could for their relief and to mitigate their sufferings. Yet, what is the presence of the surgeon without even a rag for dressing, or of the philanthropist without a morsel of bread for the hungry? We wet the wounds and reapplied the dressings and bandages of many, changing the position of the wounded and gave them such as was at hand, and even a cup of water was received with gratitude. The town was ransacked for such articles as sheets, pillow cases and linen of all descriptions for bandages and dressings, but all that was thus obtained amounted to comparatively nothing among so many. The destitution of the houses was complete, for what its former inhabitants had not carried off, when they fled the city, the Union and rebel soldiers had entirely plundered. Had it not been for the little supplies and articles of dressing usually carried by surgeons, which we had with us, our presence at this time would have been of little consequence to our wounded.

The following morning medical stores and supplies arrived in abundance. Never were stores or supplies more welcome, or the services of surgeons and assistants more needed. The wounded from this time wanted for nothing, and the surgeons no longer complained of the "want of everything." We remained at Fredericksburgh until the train, with about two thousand wounded, was in readiness to proceed to Belle Plain, which we accompanied, as Col. Cuyler, medical inspector, U. S. A., desired our assistance at that place. We reached Belle Plain in the afternoon, and worked till evening in the tents, dressing wounds and attending to the necessities of our soldiers. At the request of Dr. Cuyler, I took charge of a load of wounded on board of one of the transports, bound for Washington. On board the transport the sufferers lay in rows, some on stretchers, others on the floor and in state-rooms, in the cabins, on the upper and lower decks, in the gangways and everywhere closely packed. In this condition, if

not able to get up, their wounds were dressed and rations served out to them throughout the entire night.

Great care had to be observed in going from one to another, not to step on the wounded in waiting upon them. Wherever we went the soldiers were more anxious to know how the battle had resulted, than for their own safety. They were generally in good spirits, and anxious to recover that they might rejoin the army. They all stated that good news had been read to them while on the field, to the effect that Petersburgh had been taken, and General Butler was sure to capture Richmond.

At Washington the poor fellows were placed in charge of the medical director, and under care of detachments of the V. R. C. carried to the U. S. general hospitals. Upon reaching Washington, it was our purpose to return directly to Belle Plain for the relief of the wounded who were accumulating there with great rapidity. Upon my arrival at Washington I found you there engaged in urging forward the good work. The next day, with the corps of surgeons and nurses which you had organized, you proceeded with us to Belle Plain. I quote the following from the field correspondent of a leading journal who was on the ground : "Every facility was afforded Mr. Seymour and his assistants by the government, and they were gladly welcomed to their field of labor. A tent was assigned to them and named the Seymour tent. Whatever the hands of these gentlemen found to do was done heartily and with a will. Wounds were dressed, operations performed, cheering words spoken, and thus many sufferers comforted. Everything is being done for the wounded that circumstances will permit, no effort being spared to minister to their comfort and supply their wants. \* \* \* \* \* It is believed the New York volunteer surgeons, assistants and nurses, doing duty at Belle Plain, Fredericksburgh and with the army, outnumber those from all the other states combined."

As you are aware, I was reluctantly obliged at this time to leave Belle Plain, being exhausted from constant watching and care; and taking charge of a transport load of wounded, I reached Washington, suffering from an attack of pleurisy and pneumonia brought on by exposure.

#### CITY POINT.

The representatives of the New York State agency followed the fortunes of our soldiers, and ministered to their wants through the

dreadful days that ensued at the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, White House, Cold Harbor, and Petersburgh—at the latter place using City Point for the corps hospitals. Here I rejoined them on the 21st of June. There was about ten thousand wounded in these hospitals. The army supplies and medical stores were brought here with great facility by aid of the Potomac and James rivers. The Sanitary and Christian commissions, the German Relief Association, and the State agencies, were all dispensing their noble charities, and the system of relief was as complete as any organization out of the army could be. A large New York tent was placed at the head of the "State line," which is to-day dispensing its relief to the soldiers of our State. We were detailed for special duty with the sixth corps hospital, which was immediately organized and put in good condition. There were tents for all its wounded, and to spare. Some of the other corps hospitals were not yet so well arranged, and large numbers of wounded were under the small shelter-tents, and some of them lying in the sun without beds or straw. There was yet, as I found, a want of medical attendance in some of the departments. The few remaining wants of the camp were not due to any lack of proper arrangements by the Medical Department at Washington. A medical inspector was needed, and a little more executive ability in the supervision of the camp would have remedied the somewhat increasing margin of loose management, which is so apt to occur.

I am happy to state that on my return these evils were remedied by the presence of a medical director, and a temporary change in the control of the medical staff of the army was soon apparent by the better arrangement of the camp. Water-tanks were erected and filled by steam-engines, which forced the water up the high banks, which, at this place, bound the Appomattox, and by this means a bountiful supply of the health-giving element was furnished to man and beast, besides keeping the streets of the camp well sprinkled during the dry and dusty days. A covered pavilion or arbor of evergreen boughs extended along in front of the wards, so that all the tents could be visited without exposure to the burning sun. Evergreens were placed around the other tents also; and but for the jarring of the cannon at Petersburgh, and the maimed and sick before us, it would have required but a short stretch of the imagination to make it a fairy-scene, instead of the closing act of the dreadful war drama in which we are engaged.

## GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS.

The United States general hospitals are chiefly wooden structures, having been erected since the commencement of the war, which, with the recent improvements for hygienic purposes, have become permanent, and are much healthier than the buildings formerly used for that purpose, from their superior mode of ventilation—the ridge ventilation being used in warm weather, and in the winter the ridge is closed and shafts substituted. Each hospital consists of a number of wards, and each ward is provided with beds to accommodate from fifty to one hundred patients, with bathing apartments and accommodations for the attendants. The hospitals have a capacity to accommodate from five hundred to three thousand patients; and, when emergencies require it, can be enlarged by the addition of tents. They are well lighted—generally having a window for each bed, and at night by gas-light. The hospitals are supplied with water either from mains or springs. In some localities tanks have been erected (which are filled by engines), at a sufficient elevation to carry water to all parts of the hospitals. Many of them have printing presses for printing copies of orders and other matter, thereby saving much time and expense. Some of them publish a paper for distribution among the patients, and to subscribers, which are edited and conducted by the inmates. Each hospital has a surgeon in charge (whose duty is both professional and executive), with a sufficient number of assistant surgeons, and a chaplain.

UNITED STATES GENERAL HOSPITALS IN AND ABOUT WASHINGTON  
AND THEIR LOCATION.

Armory Square hospital, Seventh street, west, between C and D, south; Carver hospital, Fourteenth street, at terminus of City Railroad; Columbian hospital, Fourteenth street, at terminus of City Railroad; Campbell hospital, Seventh street, west, at terminus of City Railroad; Desmarre' hospitals (formerly the Eye and Ear Infirmary), at present used for the treatment of venereal diseases, Fourteenth street; Douglass hospital, corner of I street and New Jersey avenue; Eckington hospital (a branch of Finley), on Gales' farm, northeast of city; Emory hospital, near alms-house, east of the Capitol; Finley hospital, Kendall Green, Fourth street, northeast of city; Harewood hospital, Corcoran's farm, Seventh street, west; Judiciary Square hospital, Judiciary square, Louisiana avenue; Kalorama (small-pox) hospital, Rock creek, out Twenty-second street; Lincoln hospital, one mile east of the Capitol; Mount Pleas-

ant hospital, on Twentieth street, one-half mile beyond the city limits; Seminary hospital, Georgetown; (Officers' hospital) corner of Gay and Greene streets; Stone hospital (Prison hospital) Fourteenth street, beyond Carver hospital; St. Elizabeth hospital (Insane asylum) beyond Navy Yard, west; St. Aloysius hospital, Swampoodle, North Capitol and K streets; Stanton hospital, corner I street and New Jersey avenue.

There are also a large number of camp hospitals in and about Washington, but are only designed for use of the camps.

The U. S. general hospitals of Alexandria, Va., are in divisions. First, second and third divisions having their branches located in different parts of the city, in churches, public buildings and dwellings. Fairfax seminary hospital is near Alexandria, Va.

These hospitals have been visited and inspected, from time to time, with especial reference to the condition and care of our sick and wounded. They are unsurpassed in neatness and cleanliness, and are all the public service demands, and the well-being of the soldiers requires. The surgeons rank among the first to be found in any country, and have made the hospitals in all respects an honor to the nation and a home to the unfortunate who have been maimed and disabled in their country's service.

This agency has, by your direction, furnished many of the general and camp hospitals supplies and stimulants not provided by government, which could not be obtained from the store-houses of the Sanitary or Christian commission, and forwarded delicacies and stimulants to the corps hospitals and on the battle-field, where of all places the wounded soldier should receive timely aid.

#### SPECIAL DUTIES OF THE OFFICE.

During the past year the number of applications at the agency for special transfer and furlough averaged twenty-five daily, making in the aggregate nearly ten thousand, of which number about three thousand were granted. These special transfers and furloughs do not include the general transfer of our soldiers, nor the wounded from the battle-fields, able to bear transportation, for whom we procured either furloughs or transfers to their native State immediately on their arrival in the general hospitals; but only to those applying personally or by letter to our office. These general transfers, in which New York soldiers are transferred directly to their own State, we were instrumental in obtaining, whenever large numbers of wounded were in the hospitals. Taking into consideration the amount of labor incurred and the necessary

correspondence incident to these special cases, the irregularities and imperfections of many of the papers, this branch alone has demanded untiring perseverance and industry.

In conclusion, I desire to tender my acknowledgments to Surgeon-General J. K. Barnes, U. S. A., and to the officers of the various medical bureaus of this department for their uniform courtesy and attention—their willingness to furnish the necessary facilities to aid us on all occasions in the discharge of our duties as medical commissioner of the State in behalf of our soldiers. Enabling us as far as possible to carry out the wise and intelligent system designed by his excellency, Governor Seymour, and which has, under our supervision and direction, been so judiciously and humanely administered for the welfare of the soldiers of New York.

Very truly and respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES L. BABCOCK, M. D.,

*Medical Commissioner for the State of New York.*

The following interesting letter from Dr. Babcock serves incidentally to demonstrate some of the numerous frauds in relation to recruiting, which, under the vigilant observation of the State Agency, are discovered and exposed.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 26, 1864.

Hon. JOHN F. SEYMOUR,

*General Agent for the State of New York:*

Dear Sir—In my visits to the camp hospitals, my attention was repeatedly directed to the large number of conscripts, and also some recruits, who were utterly useless to the government, as their physical disabilities unfitted them for the service, yet who were passed by the examining surgeons as fit for the field. These examining surgeons are connected with the different recruiting stations of our State, and are appointed by officers of the government to examine recruits and conscripts previous to their entering the service.\* It is usually expected that recruits are able-bodied men, and fit to enter the service on enlistment, but this, I find, is not always so.

A few days since an enlisted soldier called at our office, who had extensive varicose ulcers on the legs, of long standing, requesting

\* I am informed the Provost Marshal General appoints the surgeons who examine conscripts.

me to intercede in his behalf, as he was unable to perform military duty, that he might be admitted to a general hospital for treatment. I addressed a note to the surgeon in charge of Lincoln General Hospital, soliciting an examination of the soldier for admission to the hospital. In the endorsement on my application the surgeon stated "he had ordered the soldier for treatment, and that he (the soldier) had been in the service only six months, that his enlistment was fraudulent, and that he was now aiming at a discharge, adding to his list of frauds for the purpose of again enlisting.

While I do not doubt the correctness of the surgeon's opinion of the intentions of the soldier, I must disagree with him as to who was responsible for this fraudulent enlistment. It was very evident to me, and also to the surgeon in charge of the hospital to which the soldier was admitted for treatment, that he was unfit for the service when enlisted, and the examining surgeon who passed him did so either through gross carelessness or intention to defraud the government, and in either case equally censurable.

The soldier referred to had received his bounty and been represented as an able-bodied man, fit for the service, by the surgeon who examined him.

This is but one of the many cases which have come under my notice.

The greatest number of disabled conscripts are to be found in the camps and camp hospitals, whither they are sent preparatory to joining their regiments. I saw drafted men at Camp Stoneman, (Giesboro Point, D. C.) who had been brought hundreds of miles from the utmost boundaries of our State, from their homes, with incurable diseases, unfit even to endure the journey. Such men, brought into the service to swell and strengthen our army, but which in reality they never see. Here they are brought and here they remain and die, as many of them do, without having been of any service to the government whatever, only incurring an unnecessary and useless expense.

The surgeon in charge of the Hospital Camp Stoneman was perplexed in regard to what disposition should be made of these soldiers, (as they had so recently been brought there previous to joining their commands,) yet fully satisfied of their utter worthlessness to the service, from the character of their physical disabilities. I suggested he discharge those permanently disabled, re-

port their conditions on admission to the hospital, name of the surgeon who examined and passed them, if he could do so, together with his action, to Surgeon General Barnes, U. S. A.

What course was pursued, with reference to these men, I am not informed, except in a few instances, where some were discharged.

That you may judge of the condition of many of these conscripts, I send you the following list of diseases I there found among them :

Tuberculosis (consumption), with the hectic flush of the disease already on their cheeks ; scrofula ; organic cardiac disease ; albuminaria, or Bright's disease of the kidney ; rachitis (curved spine, deformed chest) ; morbus coxarius, or hip disease ; congenital mal-formation of the limbs, as in one case, by actual measurement, one limb was found two inches shorter than the other, and the muscles undeveloped ; epilepsy, and even idiocy.

Such men, or rather diseased masses, were passed under examination of surgeons and inspection of officers, as fit for the service. It was, indeed, a sorry picture to contemplate, when such abuses were perpetrated and escaped unpunished. I reported the above facts to the Medical Department at Washington, and was informed they had no direct power to correct these evils, but that this matter would be officially laid before the honorable, the Secretary of war, with the request a board of surgeons be appointed to investigate this subject, and correct these abuses, which was filling the hospitals with invalids, requiring a detail of well men to care for and nurse them, which might otherwise be in the field.

I considered it the duty of this agency to interpose and aid in correcting existing wrongs, at least as far as it concerned the interests of our State, and trust that the efforts of this office have aided in some degree to arrest and expose instances of attempted fraud and imposition on the service.

Very truly, your obedient servant,

JAMES L. BABCOCK, M. D.,

*Med. Com. for State of New York.*

(No. 2.)

## MISS ROCKWELL'S REPORT.

HAREWOOD HOSPITAL, WASHINGTON.

Learning there was need of more help in the care of our wounded soldiers, Miss Meeker and I left home the 23d of May, intending to go to Washington and there determine where we were most needed. Almost the first person we met was Mr. John Seymour, who very kindly provided us work at once in the N. Y. agency. We were novices in the work, having never been in a hospital, but possessed of good common sense, sincere love for the soldier, and the desire to do all in our power to alleviate the sufferings of those who had so cheerfully sacrificed so much for us all. Our field of labor was Harewood hospital, the most delightfully located of the hospitals surrounding Washington. Mr. Seymour gave us so pleasant an introduction to the surgeon in charge, and his charming wife, as to secure for us the kindest of treatment, access to every portion of the buildings, every facility for carrying out our wishes, and the assurance that we were welcome visitors. We carried with us from home large trunks of stores. The Sanitary Commission was soon open to us, and we learned to appreciate its unspeakable worth more and more as we witnessed its workings. Our first visit to the hospital was on a rainy day. My friend took one side of the ward and I the other, with our hands full of newspapers to serve as an introduction to the seventy heroes that occupied those low beds. But an introduction was scarcely necessary ; they knew by intuition we had come to minister to their wants, and their brightening faces as we drew near, gave evidence that they were glad to see us. We carried with us note books, to put down whatever was asked for. At first the men were quite diffident about expressing their wants, but after talking a few moments they would feel we were interested in and desirous to do something for them. A hand would be put under the pillow, an old worn pocket book drawn out, then a photograph of some loved friend would be shown us—the heart was open to us, and our hold upon it secured. At first we were mostly occupied in writing letters, for many had had no opportunity to let their friends know that they were wounded or where they were, even were they able to write, having lost everything on the battle-field, so they were without paper or the means of procuring it, and the chaplain and nurses were so constantly occupied with

their other duties as to have little time for writing. Then there were cases of home sickness, where all that was needed was a few cheerful words. Others needed light reading to divert and occupy the mind. So we passed from bed to bed, finding what was wanted, putting down in our books the number of the bed, ward and request, and promising to bring it on the morrow. To indicate the character, etc., notice the following list called for one day : Eggnogg, sherry wine, envelopes, jelly, peaches, blackberry brandy, spelling book, tobacco, pickles, oranges, lemons, shirts, socks, drawers, slippers, sugar, condensed milk, sponge cake, Harper, and crutches. The ward surgeon was always consulted before giving the patients the edibles called for, and often suggested articles he thought might prove beneficial. Our kind friends at home kept us constantly supplied with money to use in behalf of the suffering soldiers, so we were able to procure almost every delicacy that was asked for. Many of the men had not received their pay for several months. We took their names, company, regiment, &c., sent them to the paymaster, and if their company rolls had been forwarded, in every case they received their pay promptly. Our mornings were spent in preparing for the hospital, procuring supplies from the Sanitary Commission, or purchasing articles we could not obtain there. We had so many letters to write for the soldiers, we merely took notes at the hospital and then wrote the letters after we came home, so that we might devote the more time to the soldiers. At noon we started for the hospital, carrying with us our haversacks (furnished by the Sanitary Commission) filled to overflowing, and just as much more as our arms would hold. We met with many thrilling incidents. *Home* was the key-note that touched the heart. One noble boy from Wisconsin, only eighteen years old, just at the close of the battle of Coal Harbor, while charging the enemy's works, was severely wounded below the knee. The poor boy lay on the ground all night and the next day, suffering from hunger, thirst, and his wound. Then his leg was amputated, and he started on his long, tiresome ride to Washington. Perfectly exhausted, so far from home, so young and tender hearted, no one whom he knew near him—no wonder the tears flowed freely when I asked him what I could do for him. "Please write to my mother ; I am her baby, and it will most kill her to know I've lost my leg," he said, sobbing as though his heart would break. He was very patient, and his poor old father came to him as soon as he received

my letter, and had the satisfaction of being with his boy the last two days he spent on earth, and then carried his body home to rest. The gratitude of that aged man for the little we had done for his son, for writing him so that he was enabled to come to him, was touching in the extreme. Another young man, from Geneva, was brought in the same ambulanee train, and plead so earnestly for his mother, we promised to telegraph her at once. She arrived at midnight, and entered the ward just as her son breathed his last. After the first anguish had passed, she, too, expressed deep gratitude that word had been sent her at the earliest practieable moment. She had the satisfaction of knowing he had been well cared for, and could take him home with her. One poor fellow, wasted with consumption, whose mother died some time since, dropped from his pocket book a little paper, and on my handing it to him, said, "you may read it."

" There is a green sunny island deep down in my soul,  
Where the winds never blow, and the waves never roll,  
And sweet sounds, never ceasing, come wafted to me—  
That isle, dearest mother, is memory of thee."

One man exclaimed, "why, it made my blood run cold from my throat to my toes, when you said you come elcar from New York to look after us." But the saddest place of all was the gangrene ward, for here was suffering of the severest kind; and it was touching to see the tears run down their cheeks, while with quivering voiees they thanked us for coming to see them. Dr. Bonteeou, the assistant surgeons, ward masters and nurses all treated us with marked courtesy and consideration, and were so kind as to express much regret when we left. During the two months we remained we were strongly impressed with the conviction that the system of visitation carried on by the State agencies, Sanitary and Christian Commissions, is most beneficial in its results to the soldiers—bestowing upon them care and attention they could not otherwise receive, affording them many needed delicacies, sending relief to the anxious friends at home—and the many daily "God bless yous" from the soldiers, and the sorrow they manifested when we left, showed most plainly that *they* appreciated all that was done for their comfort by these agencies. And we feel deeply indebted to the gentlemen of the Sanitary Commission, to Col. North and Mr. Seymour for faelititating our efforts.

M. K. ROCKWELL.

UTICA, Dec. 20, 1864.

( No. 3. )

DR. M. M. BAGGS' REPORT TO THE NEW YORK STATE AGENCY,  
WASHINGTON.

JOHN F. SEYMOUR, Esq., *General Agent for the Relief  
of the Sick and Wounded Soldiers of the State of New York:*

Dear Sir—The following report, prepared at your request, is a brief statement of the services performed by me in June and July last, while employed by the New York State Agency, among the soldiers within the hospitals of the city of Washington and its vicinity. Of the written returns of each day's visits, which I made to Col. North at the office of the agency, I have preserved no copies, and am unable therefore to present more than a bare outline, illustrative of the nature of the duties and the method of their performance.

Commencing the service on the 15th day of June, I continued to make daily visits to the hospitals until the 14th day of July. The institutions assigned me for most frequent visitation were Douglass and Stanton within the city, Finley and Eckington on its outskirts, and Camp Stoneman, near Giesboro. A thorough inspection of each ward of these general hospitals was made four times, and a similar inspection of Camp Stoneman three times. Campbell, Armory Square, and several wards of Harewood, were each twice gone over in the same manner, besides more cursory visits, occasioned, for the most part, by a call to execute therein some particular commission, to five other hospitals within the city, to those of the 2d division at Alexandria, to Fairfax Seminary hospital and to the Seminary hospital at Georgetown.

It was my custom to repair in the morning to the office of the agency, where I received an assignment of my duties for the day and a notification of any especial matters that needed attention. These commonly consisted of responses to applications for aid made by soldiers in the different institutions. Such applications, which were presented constantly and in large numbers, were placed for investigation in the hands of the different visitors. Receiving my share of them, I set out for the hospital, making it my business while there to inquire not only into the cases already brought to my notice, but also, when time allowed, to see and converse with every New York soldier lying in its wards. I endeavored, in accordance with my instructions, while dropping him a word of sympathy and encouragement, to ascertain what were his wants; if he needed

any thing which was not supplied by the hospital authorities, such as clothing, cordials, and delicacies to quieten a languid appetite; writing materials or an amanuensis, tobacco, &c., &c.; if he suffered from neglect on the part of the nurses, ward-masters, or other attendants; if any portion of his State bounty, or of his pay from the General Government, was still due him; in short, if he stood in need of any thing that a sick or wounded soldier ought to have, and which his own State could and ought to furnish. At the close of each day's visitation, returns were made to Col. North, which included, beside a general statement of the condition of the hospital and its inmates, a complete list of all the necessities made known by the patients. On the following day the required articles were carried by porters of the office to the ward-masters of the various wards, to be by them distributed, if approved by the surgeons, to the needy expectants. Measures were also taken to secure back pay, whether from the State or the United States, to those who claimed to be entitled thereto. In the former case, that namely where some portion of the State bounty was still due, these consisted in procuring from the agent of the Paymaster General of New York the requisite blanks and conveying them to the soldier for his signature. In the latter case the course pursued was to inform the Regimental Paymasters, if resident in the city of Washington, of the fact that such claimants were in the city and in want, and the name and number of the hospital, ward and bed, where they might be found. The necessities of every kind were in each case relieved as far as was practicable; the articles they had asked for it was ascertained on a subsequent visit had been brought them; communication had been opened with their paymaster, while the form necessary to enable them to draw the State bounty myself or some other visitor had the pleasure of putting into their hands. Complaints which were at any time made of neglect by the subordinates of the hospital, were at once brought to the notice of the surgeon in charge of the institution from which they emanated. Of charges preferred against the surgical officers themselves I am happy to say there were none, if I except only the superior officer of the Post hospital at Giesboro. On the contrary the soldiers with one accord expressed their entire satisfaction with the attention, kindness and skill with which they were treated by the surgeons under whose care they were placed.

At Camp Stoneman, however, the facts were otherwise; here complaints were rife and were apparently justified by the negli-

gence and inhumanity of the surgeon in charge. For although this camp undoubtedly contained a large number of unwilling and worthless soldiers, who were ready to assume any pretence of disability in order to escape from duty, there were beside numerous cases of real and permanent disability, who were maintained at the expense of Government when there was scarce a possibility of their ever again doing it service in the field. These men were the subjects of chronic rheumatism, chronic bronchitis, phthisis, disease of the heart, dropsy, cataract, disease of the bones and joints, badly united fractures, &c., and several of them were beside advanced in years. The men of this hospital were constantly besieging the agency with prayers for its intercession in their behalf. I was informed by the surgeon in charge that although it was contrary to his instructions to recommend any men of his hospital for furlough, transfer or discharge, unless in his judgment such change was "essential to the continuance of their lives," yet it was permitted him to present for such purposes the names of those whom he deemed suitable cases, provided the initiative in the matter was taken by the authorities of the State to which they belonged; that is to say, the condition of these men having been inquired into by competent persons in the employ of their State, and they having been named to him as fit subjects for furlough, transfer or discharge, he might then at his option recommend the same to the medical director. How far his assertions as to the limitation of his powers were to be relied on as correct I am unable to say, though it is to be feared that the greater comparative stringency of the regulations under which his hospital was governed were made the excuse for the indulgence of an amount of neglect and caprice that were unpardonable. Acting, however, on his representation, a professional examination was made of all the New York men contained within this hospital, and lists were prepared of such, as in consequence of permanent disability, should, in my judgment, be confined there no longer. These lists were returned by Col. North to the surgeon in charge, accompanied with the request on his part that they be discharged or removed. Although much less was accomplished for the relief of these sufferers than was desired, yet I am confident in the belief that several soldiers who had been useless to the Government, thus restrained of their liberty and denied the advantages which a change to their native air and the society of their friends might in all probability have afforded them, were set free or transferred to some more con-

genial locality mainly through the efforts of the State agency. Fortunately other, and perhaps more serious crimes of this unworthy officer, came, at this time, to the knowledge of the Government, and he was dismissed the service.

In concluding this description of the kind of duties I was called on to perform, as one of the visitors temporarily employed by your agency, I cannot forbear to express my obligations to Col. North and his associates for the uniform courtesy which, amid the press of their multifarious duties and the crowd who daily thronged the office, they showed towards me personally, for the facilities afforded me in the discharge of my duties, and the interest and zeal with which they co-operated in any measures taken for the welfare of the unfortunate class whose interests they were appointed to subserve.

Respectfully submitted,

UTICA, Dec. 21st, 1864.

M. M. BAGG.

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(No. 4.)

DR. E. H. THURSTON'S REPORT.

NEW YORK STATE AGENCY, 181 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, }  
WASHINGTON, October, 1864. }

I have the honor to submit the following report of my labors in connection with this agency since June last: My attention was first directed to visiting hospitals with reference to ascertaining the condition and supplying the wants of our sick and wounded soldiers. My visitations were for some time confined principally to Columbian, Carver, Mount Pleasant, Armory Square and Judiciary Square U. S. A. General Hospitals. In these visits soldiers and officers were always conversed with freely and pleasantly on various subjects, and thus usually without asking direct questions, such as would be painful to a sensitive mind, their wants were incidentally learned, a memorandum book kept for the purpose serving to note such facts and wants as seemed to demand attention. It would be impossible for one not fully conversant with the life of the soldier to imagine his strange and varied wants; neither can they be learned by a hurried and business-like visit alone, but by entering the hospital with a warm, sympathizing heart and speaking to the soldier, with eyes upon his face, and interest for him in your voice, telling him you are from his own

State and anxious to do him favor ; his heart is soon all thrown open to you, he tells you of himself, of his home and friends, his hopes and fears and desires. I have often seen the tear steal down the cheek of the stout-hearted veteran, as pointing to his amputated limb, he would say : I did my part until I got this at Pittsburgh, or in the Wilderness, or wherever it might be, and I have now been three months in hospital, have received no pay for five or perhaps six months, and I fear my poor wife and little ones may suffer, never thinking of his *own* loss. The omnipresent note book is produced, his name, company and regiment are noted ; his paymaster is sought and requested to go to the hospital and pay these cases, many of which, coming in after battle, and having been so constantly on the march as to prevent paymasters from reaching them, have been for six and eight months without pay. In one instance I obtained back pay for an officer amounting to thirteen hundred dollars. This was at Armory Square, in the case of Lieut. Brophy, of the 27th Michigan regiment. Many times when paymasters could not well leave to go to hospitals, I obtained blank rolls and filling them out returned them to his office when their accounts were cashed. It is but a just tribute to the paymasters of this department to say they have seldom been solicited to see to cases of this sort without making immediate response—in some instances going two miles to pay a single man. Hospitals in this department are now, however, paid systematically at the end of every two months, by Major Eaton, U. S. A., who is one of the most patriotic and energetic men in the service, going at all times, in sun and in storm, that none may complain of a want of money when he has it. The wants of soldiers, in respect to clothing, have ever received prompt attention, the supplies being obtained to some extent from benevolent societies in the State, but principally from the U. S. Sanitary Commission, who have invariably filled all requisitions made by me for supplies for needy soldiers ; and while we have paid special attention to the wants of our own soldiers, in these supplies of clothing, food and delicacies, yet it is but just to ourselves to say, no soldier, from any State, who was found needy, was ever neglected. I often heard complaints from the soldiers of other states, saying there was a lack of the special care and sympathy which was so manifested by New York, and I am convinced that while general agents from the Sanitary and Christian Commissions are doing noble work and accomplishing great good, yet officers and soldiers feel the

close relations of agents directly from their own States, and at perfect liberty to call on them for assistance, when they would not do so in case of general agents. They claim as their rightful heritage from us what they would feel was but charity from other sources ; and although the visitor must meet with much that is disagreeable and unpleasant, yet the satisfaction of relieving the sufferings and smoothing the paths of those who suffer in a common cause is enough to compensate for all privation or difficulty.

About the middle of July I was called away from the visiting of hospitals to perform duty in the general office. Here I was brought more directly in contact with another branch of assistance to our soldiers—that of obtaining furloughs and transfers to State and discharge. This part of the agents' duties I find not easy to perform, as much discretion and caution was necessary, in presenting cases soliciting assistance in these several matters, to present for the action of military and medical officers, as far as possible, only such as should seem most worthy and entitled to favorable consideration. Notwithstanding the utmost care, however, through the importunities of soldiers and their friends, many cases not justly entitled to that which was requested, must have been presented to the medical director and to the surgeons in charge of hospitals ; and the agency cannot render too hearty thanks to Surgeon R. O. Abbott, medical director of this department, and to his assistants, assistant surgeons W. A. Bradly and J. D. Middleton, for the cordial consideration and prompt attention to all cases presented, referring them to their proper source for examination and action. Brigadier General J. K. Barnes, the surgeon general, was also ever ready to listen to any matters presented to him, and to assist and favor our wishes when consistent with the regulations of the army. It was ever my aim to avoid presenting any matter, in any manner offensive to medical or military authority. Many special cases, such as that of a mother claiming the discharge of a son as a means of support (the father having deceased since his enlistment), were presented to the Secretary of war, through the office of the Adjutant General, and invariably received prompt, and where possible, favorable attention, from Col. Samuel Breck, the assistant Adjutant General. Indeed the relations of this office with all official bureaus in this department have been of the most amicable and satisfactory nature. In numerous instances, in their anxiety to secure what was desired, large sums of money were offered our agents, for services rendered, but

in no one instance, to my knowledge, since my connection with the office, was a single dollar received. In a single day (\$90,00) ninety dollars was urged upon me for assistance in obtaining discharges and furloughs. We have felt, that as representatives of our State and its people at home, for their sons and brothers, such gains would be most dishonorable, and I have always taken pains to answer such soldiers that as much would be done as if it were received. Many important improvements have been made in and about the hospitals during the year. The experience of three years of war having taught our surgeons many things before unknown and untried, so that at present our hospitals are conducted in a most systematic and orderly manner. The guards and nurses are furnished principally from partially disabled soldiers in the Veteran Reserve Corps. A smaller number of deaths have occurred for the number of patients, than any previous year of the war, and no epidemic has visited this city during the past season, notwithstanding its extreme heat and dryness, and the great number of sick and wounded massed in so limited a space. This I think due almost entirely to the especial attention paid to the hygienic and sanitary condition of the hospitals, and the special enforcement of personal cleanliness on the part of patients by army medical officers. These hundreds of warm hearts and willing hands ever ready to minister to the comfort and care of those who fight for their country's flag and the preservation of its laws, among whom are noble women, "not a few." Our own State has reason to be proud of those who have represented her "in the city of hospitals"—ladies bred in delicacy and refinement, and whom nothing but the highest and purest feelings of philanthropy and patriotism could have induced to leave their parlors and the surrounding of home, ease and luxury, I have seen mingling in scenes and enduring, for many months, fatigue which would discourage and exhaust those of a sterner mind. I hope our State officers may never grow unmindful of the importance and the utility of keeping up that connecting link between home and friends which every soldier feels he possesses in the intelligent and judicious State agent. Hoping the above report may incite others to assist, comfort and encourage our brave soldiers, I have the honor to be

Respectfully your obedient servant,

E. H. THURSTON.

(No. 5.)

## DR. W. B. COVENTRY'S REPORT OF THE AGENCY OF ALEXANDRIA.

MR. JOHN F. SEYMOUR :

Sir—In response to your request, made to me this A. M., to make a report of the New York State Agency, during the time it was under my care at Alexandria, Va., and my experience during the time I was acting under the auspices of the New York State Agency, I beg leave to present the following report, premising with the remark that all the papers (notes taken at the time) in relation to the transactions of the agency, together with my own private records, have been left at Alexandria for reference at the office there, and, consequently, I have to depend upon my recollection of those transactions for the facts contained in this report. And I desire to state, in addition to the above remarks, that I regret exceedingly that I am not allowed the time necessary to procure those records, as they would enable me to show with more certainty and accuracy the benefit rendered to the soldiers of the army of the United States by the agency.

I think it was May 13<sup>th</sup>, 1864, when I received from you a telegram requesting me to proceed to Washington, D. C., and, if possible, to have accompany me M. M. Jones and wife and Merritt Peckham. I immediately responded to the call, and assumed the responsibility of accepting Miss Kipp (who, anxious to serve her country and its suffering soldiers, volunteered her services as one of the party).

We found, in New York city, the State Agency office in active operation, and, as I should judge, of great benefit to the soldiers from our State.

Arriving in Washington May 18<sup>th</sup>, I found ample work for all with kind hearts and kind hands to do. Visiting, as I did, several hospitals, in association with others connected with the agency, I saw many scenes which freshened my memory of days and nights passed in hospitals upon battle fields, and I made my best endeavors to ameliorate the sufferings of the thousands of the sick and wounded I saw there.

I take pleasure in mentioning the fact that the surgeons in charge of these hospitals always received the visitors connected with the agency with courtesy and treated them kindly.

Finding, upon visiting some of the hospitals at Alexandria, Va., that the wants of the sick and wounded were much greater there

than in Washington, I reported that fact to the agency at Washington. About the first of June I was assigned to duty at Alexandria. I found Mr. Daniel Bryan (who was acting under the auspices of the agency) and his kind and patriotic wife doing all in their power to relieve the suffering of those on every side. I found Alexandria to be a city of hospitals, the majority of the inhabitants being persons who were sick or wounded in consequence of exposure in camp or on the field of battle. There were, at that time, in Alexandria, or the immediate vicinity, more than (20) twenty hospitals, every one of which was either in active operation or in process of construction. These hospitals contained nearly twenty thousand men. The matrons and others had to go or send to Washington to draw supplies from the Sanitary Commission of such luxuries as the government did not furnish. I found the Christian Commission in active operation in Alexandria, the members visiting the hospitals, and I derived much pleasure from my association with them and in furnishing to them such supplies as they called for, when I had the supplies to furnish. I think that the State Agency and Christian Commission, by working in concert and harmony, were mutually beneficial.

Mr. Bryan, of Alexandria, Mr. John Callahan, of New York city, Major Trowbridge, of the army, and myself established an office at No. 7 South Royal street. We had cards printed and circulated in all the hospitals, giving information regarding State agencies in Alexandria, Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York city. We wrote letters to newspapers, aid societies, and private individuals at the north, describing the needs of the soldiers and appealing for help in aiding them. We soon were enabled to draw what we required from the Sanitary Commission, and were consequently better able to satisfy the requests of the soldiers, nurses, matrons and surgeons when they called upon us for luxuries or necessities. After we began to draw extensively from the Sanitary Commission, we furnished agents from other States. We published the agency in the newspapers of the place, and were kindly allowed to use a portion of the editorial columns to call the attention of the soldiers to the agency. Owing to the number of hospitals and patients, and our limited sources of supplies at the time of the first organization of the agency, some of the demands upon us for assistance could not be satisfied, and, in consequence, the agencies were criticised somewhat by disappointed persons.

Owing to the kindness of two army officers, we were allowed the gratuitous use of a horse and carriage for the purpose of carrying hospital visitants and the luxuries they conveyed to the different hospitals. The depot quarter-master's department furnished us transportation for heavy articles. In fact all persons in the employ of the government used their best endeavors to assist us in our benevolent work.

Not only the assistant surgeons in immediate charge of the patients, but the surgeons in charge of the different divisions furnished all aid in their power and encouragement to us.

During part of the time while I was on duty at Alexandria, nearly every hospital in the place was daily visited by some one connected with the agency. When, owing to the extreme heat and the fatigue attendant upon their labors, our hospital visitants became sick and were compelled to return to their homes, we relied upon the surgeons, matrons, nurses and soldiers to call upon us for information and sanitary stores.

We kept on file most of the time at the office of the agency newspapers from central New York, to enable soldiers from that region to read news from home. We furnished money and comforts to soldiers who were discharged or furloughed to enable them to reach their homes.

We visited the transports as they arrived with sick and wounded from the army, helping as we could, distributing our cards and ice water, lemonade and stimulants and crackers, beef soup, &c. The transports came in at all hours, day or night.

I cannot call to mind all the hospitals of Alexandria. Such as I know I have visited or sent articles to. I name below King Street Hospital, Prisoners', Fairfax, two buildings; Mansion House, Baptist Church, Methodist Chureh, St. Paul's Church, Graee Church, Duke street, three buildings; Washington, Old Halowell, New Halowell, Soldiers' Rest, Fairfax Seminary, Slough Barracks, Sickles Barracks, Contraband Camp.

With the exception of the last five mentioned, these hospitals were all in the town and easily visited. Fairfax Seminary Hospital was two miles from town. Contraband Camp was five miles distant, Soldiers' Rest, Slough Barracks and Siekles' Barracks, were on the outskirts of the town and troublesome to visit without horse and carriage.

Acting in accordance with instructions received from you, I employed the following persons in addition to those mentioned

above: Mrs. Fanning and Mrs. Chandler, from Broome county, ladies, who knowing of the sufferings of the soldiers, had come to Alexandria to assist in relieving those suffering. They visited most of the hospitals in Alexandria, and furnished many luxuries to the sick and wounded. Drs. Geo. W. Cook, George Lawton and Thomas Radigan, from Syracuse, N. Y., were sent from the Washington agency and remained with us about two weeks. They made regular visitations to the different hospitals, distributing luxuries, books, &c.

Mrs. Stanard, from Utica, was very actively engaged, from the middle of June to the latter part of July, in distributing luxuries and in assisting Miss Quick, an authorized agent of some New York city societies, in endeavoring to have attached to the different hospitals *extra kitchens* for the use of matrons and others, to cook delicacies for the sick and wounded.

Hospital visitants came to us daily from Washington and elsewhere, receiving supplies from us for distribution in the various hospitals, and giving us information of the wants of New York state troops.

The records of the amount of good work done, besides the very large amount of stores distributed, being at present in Alexandria, I cannot give more full particulars.

My connection with the agency ceased on the 31st day of August last.

Hoping that the above report will meet with your approbation, I remain, as ever,

Truly yours,

W. B. COVENTRY.

Dec. 21, 1864.

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( No. 6. )

#### CALVIN G. BEACH'S REPORT OF THE AGENCY AT FREDERICKSBURGH.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 24, 1864.

Dear Sir—In accordance with instructions received from your brother, his Excellency Horatio Seymour, on Saturday, the 14th inst., I reported to you on Monday, the 16th, and was by you instructed to proceed at once to Fredericksburgh, Va., and do whatever might seem necessary for the care or relief of soldiers from the State of New York, and afford such aid or information to par-

ties seeking knowledge of their friends in the service as I might be able to give.

In my instructions, you authorized me to draw upon you for such sums of money as I might require to fulfill the purposes of my mission; but owing to the extent of our agreement with the Sanitary Commission—that noble charity to which the citizens of our State have contributed with a liberality unparalleled—I have found little occasion to use money.

I repaired at once to Fredericksburgh and opened rooms on William street, directly opposite those occupied by the Sanitary Commission, on the morning of Tuesday, the 17th.

I found the city one vast hospital; stores, warehouses, public buildings, and even churches—every place that could give shelter, was used as a receptacle for the wounded.

The population of Fredericksburgh was but 6,000, and with at least that number of wounded—and many declared the number to be much greater—suddenly thrust into a town, with which all were unfamiliar, it is evident that my first and chiefest labor was to systematize the work before me, that I might readily give information or care in any case that should be demanded. I accordingly, as a preliminary step, prepared a directory containing the name of the surgeon in charge of the hospitals of each army corps, and the location of his office. I then added, as fully as possible, a list of the New York regiments and independent batteries, with General Meade, and the corps to which they were assigned.

The utility of this step was shown in scores of instances where inquiries were made by friends in person or by letter, of the nature of the injuries, and the condition of the soldiers named, or where they might be found.

I did not visit all the hospitals, for their number prevented it. I did, however, visit those in which New York was most represented, and many wards I visited several times. To speak in detail of the suffering I witnessed, and of the heroism with which it was borne, could fill a volume; and to depict them in their proper colors would furnish employment for an abler pen than mine. Imagination the most vivid cannot conceive scenes of suffering more intense than those of which my duty made me witness; and the annals of heroism can furnish no records of more patient endurance than were to be seen on every hand.

I conversed with hundreds of soldiers from our State; with some whose wounds were of such a nature that promised a speedy

recovery, and with others to whom it would have been wickedness to hold out the shadow of a hope. One of the latter class, a member of the sixth company of the First New York sharpshooters, who had suffered two amputations of a leg, spoke calmly of his wishes in regard to his body and his effects, and declared that though life was beautiful and full of promise for him, he was yet ready to die, and felt that his life could not be given in a cause more holy than a war for the preservation of the Union.

In accordance with his request, his body was embalmed and sent to his friends, on my becoming personally responsible for the payment of the expenses. I might multiply instances which, to me, were full of interest, did such come properly within the scope of this report.

Watches and other property belonging to deceased soldiers, were in some cases handed me by their comrades, with the names of the parties to whom the deceased had desired to have them sent, and such charges have been sacredly fulfilled.

Yesterday morning, finding that the wounded were all to be removed from Fredericksburgh, and the town abandoned, and that I could therefore be of little further use at that point, I joined the wagon train, the last to be sent out, for Belle Plain.

As you were present in person, superintending the removal of the wounded, who were brought down by rail to Acquia creek, you are better prepared to speak of that than myself. I cannot close this imperfect report without acknowledging the assistance received from Dr. Wm. McKennan, of Albion, N. Y., present during the week at Fredericksburgh as a volunteer surgeon, whose aid was invaluable. Mr. Brownell, of Oneida county, also professed his services during the last two days of our occupation of the town, and proved very efficient; while the Sanitary and Christian Commissions dispensed their stores with a bountiful hand.

The agents in charge of the Ohio rooms also liberally proffered their coöperation, and in the distribution of necessaries made little distinction between the soldiers of Ohio and those of our own and other States. The inhabitants were also moved with pity at the suffering about them, and not only used our men with kindness, but so far as my observation extended, responded with cheerful alacrity to such demands as were made upon their slender resources. I had occasion, in several instances, to ask the good offices of persons resident in the town, and in every instance my

request was granted, as an act of common justice. I of course compensated them for the service rendered.

In conclusion, having present before me in all its dread reality the sickening scene from which I have but just emerged, I must add a fervent hope that the future may hold no such fearful necessity for aid to our gallant soldiers as the past ten days have furnished. Could those who, seated by their quiet firesides, seem impatient when the daily journal fails to bring its usual *quantum* of tales of slaughter, who vehemently clamor for more vigor, and who seem to laud most highly those commanders whose career is most marked with the dark stain of the blood of our sons and brothers—could such but have passed with me through the aisles of horror which have passaged the hospitals of Fredericksburgh, they would be either more or less than human did they not echo the prayer that soon the dread cause of war may be lifted from our land, and the soil be no more bedewed with the blood of our bravest and our best.

I have the honor to be, &c.,

Your obedient servant,

C. G. BEACH.

To JOHN F. SEYMOUR, Esq.,

*Special agent S. N. Y., Washington, D. C.*

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( No. 7. )

DR. CHAMLERLAIN'S REPORT OF WORK AT BELLE PLAIN AND  
FREDERICKSBUGH.

To JOHN F. SEYMOUR, Esq., *New York State Agent  
for the care of Sick and Wounded Soldiers:*

Sir—In accordance with the usage at your office and with your requirement, I have the honor to present the following report:

On the 19th of May last, in company with Dr. J. N. Goff of this town, I presented myself at your office, No. 181 Pennsylvania avenue, Washington, for instruction as to the most efficient mode of serving, professionally or otherwise, the sick and wounded of our army.

We were at once enrolled among your active and efficient corps of assistants, and under your direction were for several days employed with them in looking after the interests and necessities of New York men in the hospitals in and about Washington. While all is done that is possible by the government, there still

remains much special work for individuals. We found occasional representatives from other states looking up their wounded, but everywhere we found New York men and women patiently and constantly striving to mitigate the suffering and add to the comfort of the brave men of the empire state. But the good works of your agents were not confined to the men of their own state alone. I heard it more than once remarked that the New York state people were more cosmopolitan in their work and feelings than those of any other state.

The work in Washington having been so classified and distributed as to allow of your absence, I was, with a corps of volunteer surgeons and medical agents from your office, detailed to accompany you to Belle Plain and Fredericksburgh, to aid in the care of wounded at those places.

Arriving at Belle Plain late at night, we found a long train of ambulances just arrived with wounded from the battle-fields of the Wilderness. Many of these had lain two days on the field before they could be removed, and were now on their way to hospitals in Washington. Some we found dead, some dying. Food and stimulants were given judiciously and generously to all who could swallow. The dead were identified when possible, and their names, companies, regiments and residences recorded. The dying were tenderly cared for, their names and residences taken, and their last wishes and messages carefully recorded for transmission to their friends.

But I need not detail to you this work in which you were so efficient and so much at home.

When all the hundreds of wounded had been tenderly and rapidly as possible transferred to the hospital steamers, our long night's work was done and we at liberty to secure some needed rest.

As Belle Plain was so soon to be abandoned, Drs. Post and Maxon, two of your medical agents who had been on duty here, were added to our party, and the next day, leaving only that efficient worker, Mrs. Spence, to represent the New York agency, we proceeded to Fredericksburgh; Dr. Richardson of our party being detailed for duty at Aequia Creek.

Here we found ample opportunity for work. The large number of volunteer surgeons who had first come to this place had become tired out, and most of them had gone home, so that your

corps of volunteer surgeons and medical agents found, alas, too much need of their services.

The whole city was more than filled with wounded. Churches, hotels, factories, stores, dwellings, every building that could be made available was occupied, and large numbers occupied hospital tents in the suburbs. The whole atmosphere was tainted by the wounds of the eight thousand (8,000) poor fellows crowded together here.

For the most part, too, these were the worst cases out of the thirty thonsand (30,000) and more who had been brought in since the campaign began, those best able having been taken on to Washington and elsewhere.

We were distributed by the medical director among the hospitals of the various army corps where most needed, and left to our work—work not more laborious and important than that performed by yourself on your return trip to Washington with the large train of wounded you accompanied.

While our professional labor was not of course confined to the wounded from our own state, we took every occasion to aid, as far as possible, the efforts of your permanent agent at F., Mr. Beach, in his work of looking after the comfort and interests of New York men.

The evaeuation of the city having been ordered, Dr. Goff, Dr. Maxon and myself reported to Dr. Post, who had been placed in charge of the hospital transport George Weems, and were by him retained as assistants. We took on board about four hundred wounded belonging to the Fifth army corps, and were about to start when we found the steamer was totally unsupplied with food and hospital stores. A small supply of the latter was procured from the proper authoritics, after some delay, and the agents of the sanitary and christian commissions contributed something from their stores, now almost entirely exhausted.

The boat got under way about 5 o'clock p. m. and steamed slowly down the river, whieh is here very narrow and crooked.

Dr. Goff and myself were placed in charge of the main deck and cabin, the floors of which were so thickly covered with wounded that we could hardly move among them. We were fortunate in being aided by Dr.—— of Troy, N. Y., and by Dr. Fanitor of East Avon, N. Y., who took charge of the wounded on the upper deek, both volunteer surgeons, who had been on duty at F. and were now returning home.

Two or three female nurses—one of them Mrs. Swishelm—were on board and assisted in distributing to the wounded the little food we could supply. This was principally milk punch and beef broth, the materials for which, fortunately, we found among our few hospital stores. With these we were able to furnish an apology for supper to the poor fellows under our care.

At dark the steamer was anchored, partly because of difficult navigation and partly lest guerillas, unable to see our hospital flag in the darkness, should fire upon us in ignorance of our character.

About 9 o'clock a very severe gust, with rain and hail, burst upon us, drenching and chilling many of the men on the upper deck. We dressed as well as we could some of the worst wounds where all were bad enough. Many had not been dressed for several days, and were in a condition too loathsome to be described. The night wore away very slowly. The men who had been detailed as nurses were inefficient, and most of them skulked.

Without help, without food, without bandages for wounds, without medicines, except some morphine, without lights more than sufficed to make darkness visible, we labored through the long hours, wearied more by the sufferings we could not relieve than by the many things we tried to do.

At daylight the boat resumed her course. With the aid of a barrel of soft crackers, procured from the captain of the boat, we were able to furnish our cold and hungry men a better meal than the night before.

About noon we met the large and well supplied hospital steamer . State of Maine, and, much to our gratification, were ordered to transfer our wounded to her comparatively luxurious accommodations. Instead of a scanty supply of damp straw upon the hard decks, our poor fellows had now soft mattresses and comfortable berths, and were soon supplied with a hearty meal of hot coffee, soft bread and meat.

It was a source of no little satisfaction to us to be able to transfer alive into other hands every one of the mangled brave men we had received at Fredericksburgh. During the next night and day we were permitted only to be lookers on, and it was sad to see several of the most desperately wounded, over whom we had fought death at such disadvantage for twenty-four hours, one after another laid away, to be taken to the burial place instead of the hospital.

The surgeons of the State of Maine were skillful, able and willing workers, evidently preferring to work unaided. It was to be regretted that their number had not been greater or the work less. The worst cases received attention; but numbers, where wounds required dressing, were obliged to wait till they reached the hospitals in Washington.

Released from professional duty, it was a pleasure to resume the special duties of a New York State agent. A large proportion of the wounded were from our State, and were pleased and proud to know that the agents of their own State authorities were looking after their comfort and welfare.

They were mostly sent to the excellent hospital in Armory Square, where the skill and kindness of Dr. Bliss, surgeon in charge, insured to them the best possible care, and where they could daily be visited by agents from your office in Washington.

Respectfully,

J. K. CHAMBERLAIN.

CAZENOVIA, June 1864.

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(No. 8.)

MRS. R. H. SPENCER'S REPORT OF THE NEW YORK STATE AGENCY  
AT CITY POINT, VA.

November 7, 1864.

Mr. JOHN F. SEYMOUR:

Dear Sir—When I saw you in Albany last summer, I said to you that I would send you a report of my labors from the time I left Alexandria to find our wounded after the battle of the Wilderness. My husband being hospital steward in the Medical Purveyor's Department, I make my home (by the consent of Dr. Brinton, medical purveyor of the army of the Potomac), with that department.

On the 8th day of May, an order came from Surgeon General Barnes, Washington, to repair forthwith to Rappahannock station, with all needed supplies for the wounded. The cars were loaded, and the train started for said station without delay.

Meantime, with the money furnished by Governor Scymour for occasions of need to New York soldiers, I had purchased such supplies of food and articles of comfort as I deemed necessary for the emergency. I also took with me a good quantity of tobacco, furnished me by Thomas Hoyt, 404 Pearl street, New York.

Thanks to his bountiful generosity, I had on hand a large supply. On reaching the place of our destination, we found no wounded; and after waiting until next morning, we were informed that the rebels had intercepted our ambulances, and turned our wounded another way. We were ordered to return to Alexandria. On my way back, I distributed tobacco to the soldiers on duty. We arrived in Alexandria Monday evening; there found further orders from Washington, which were to load two steamers with medical supplies and stores for Belle Plain. The purveyor and stewards labored all night, and at early morning the steamboats left for that port. Not knowing if the Surgeon General wished me to go by either of the boats loaded with hospital stores, I went to Washington instead to ascertain his feelings in the matter. He seemed surprised that I had not gone, and advised me to go with the first steamer following. I returned to Alexandria, and at dusk stood on wharf No. 4, with my basket and haversack filled with rations, waiting for the steamer upon which I was soon established, while she made her way towards Belle Plain as fast as her steam and wheels could move her. In her cabin I found several delegates of the Christian commission, among them a co-worker at Gettysburg—Lawyer McCreary—a resident of that place; one whose heart and hand was ever open to aid our suffering soldiers. I can never speak or write of him without expressing my admiration and respect for his noble devotion to the cause of patriotism. The steamer arrived at Belle Plain daybreak Wednesday morning. We could not get on shore for some time after reaching port. The sanitary boat, with her stores, delegates, and ladies, lay beside us. Slightly wounded soldiers, who had been able to walk from the field, were moving slowly towards the boats, with hungry, anxious faces, and were being fed from the sanitary boat with crackers and other edibles. As soon as I could land, I went from the boat to the shore with my rations, thinking I might make a little coffee or tea for some of them, and soon found plenty who were needing what I could give them. I met Dr. Babcock, our State medical agent, moving from one wounded man to another, dressing their wounds and cheering them with kind, encouraging words.

After feeding my small supply of rations, I passed to another portion of the field, where I found ten or eleven theological students, delegates of the sanitary commission, who were employed making coffee in camp-kettles; the kettles hung upon a pole over the fire, each end of the pole resting on crotched sticks that had

been driven in the ground as standards for the pole. I offered my services to assist in making coffee or tea; to stir, dip, or serve in any way, so that we might expedite the feeding of our wounded and hungry men. My assistanee was thankfully reeeeived, and all parties worked with a will; some cut wood, others brought water, one would keep the fire, while another would go with pail and cup to distribute what had been prepared.

Thus all worked until dark and after, into the night. I think there were fed on that first day six thousand men, including those brought in wagons and ambulances with their drivers and attendants. In the afternoon it rained without ceasing, pouring in torrents over all. The wounded lay upon the ground surrounding us by thousands; some under bushes for shelter, others without shelter except blankets, more without covering of any kind. It was impossible to make shelter in so short a time; we were thankful that we could feed them. How often, in passing from one to the other, I've heard a grateful "God bless you!" And often as I passed a soldier laying in the rain and mud, with his arm or leg off, a wound in his neck, lungs, or body, he would say, in answer to my inquiry if he'd had tea or coffee: "Ycs, I've done well, thank you; but you, lady, you'll get your death in this rain. How can you go through this mud to wait on us?" Their cheerfulness was to me most surprising. I stood in the mud that day over the top of my boots, while preparing food for the wounded. The sanitary had but one tent erected; that one sheltered their stores from the wet. At night, eleven o'clock, it occurred to me that I had no place to sleep. One of the men who had been assisting us in making fires said he would go and ask a driver to give me a place in his wagon. One of the drivers readily assented, and left his wagon for my use—finding room for himself with a brother teamster. I got into the wagon, wrapped my shawl about me, sat myself on the bottom of the vehicle, plaecd the mule saddle at my back, and for the first time since morning settled myself down for rest. I could not sleep; my clothes were thoroughly saturated with mud and rain. My bones were aching with wet and fatigue, yet I did not feel discouraged. How could I? When I thought of the thousands lying erippled, maimed, dying all around me, my every breath seemed a prayer for my suffering countrymen. At dawn the next morning, I felt rested and ready for another day's work. In going from the wagon to our place of cooking, I experienced the disagreeable effect of walking through

Virginia mud. The rain upon the clay soil makes a mortar equal to that made at home by our brick and stone masons. I often think of our mortar beds. In the morning, I found many of our wounded lying in those beds of mud mortar. Most were fortunately laid from the ambulances upon the hill-side, and fared much better. The wounded continued to come, and were being cared for. Miss Dix, with her lady nurses, came, and after a little time passed on to Fredericksburgh; one or two ladies remained for a day or two, but all finally went farther. The government kitchen issued supplies to thousands; furnished the sanitary, when short, with meat, bread, sugar, coffee, &c.

The Christian commission labored faithfully and effectually. In a few days we were made comfortable, and still worked on. Dr. Steiner, of the sanitary commission, and the Rev. Mr. Knapp, of the same, requested me to take charge of the cooking. I did so, feeling that my proper place was with them, as New York had turned all her contributions into that commission. I, therefore, would be working for my New York men to better advantage than in any other position. You, sir, found me there, and approved of my course, and saw for the time you remained with us how faithfully all labored. Father Gilroy, of Indiana, came to our relief often with government supplies. Early in the morning and late at night I've met him administering to wounded and dying men; many a blessing has gone upward for him. We remained over two weeks at Belle Plain. I had intended to return to Alexandria in three or four days at farthest, and had therefore taken with me no change of clothing. I found so much suffering and need of my services that I remained, although my shoes were worn out, and I felt the need of clothes. Nevertheless, we were working in this exigency for the Union.

On the 25th of May we left Belle Plain for Port Royal; reached there awhile before dark; went on shore; the wounded were arriving in large numbers. We found an old building with substantial fire-places, but no wood of which to build fires to prepare the food for them. We were in a strait; the men must be fed at all hazards. Therefore we made the sides of the building our agents of special relief for the present occasion of need. The fires were made, and we worked with our might making and distributing coffee until nearly daylight. I went to the boat for rest the balance of the night. Early next morning went on shore again, and commenced our labors for another day. Colonel Cuyler, Inspec-

tor General of the Army, had a stove brought and placed inside the building and five cauldrons outside, and twenty-eight men were sent by him to assist in the work. Two cauldrons were filled for coffee, one for soup, and two for meat. These were kept in constant action as well as the kettles and stove inside the building. With all those facilities, and with the sanitary and government supplies we barely fed all that came.

We remained at Port Royal until the morning of the 29th. Just before leaving for White House (which was to be our next base of operations), I met Mr. Fay, of the sanitary commission, who came from Fredericksburgh the day before, where he'd been since our first landing at Belle Plain. He asked me if I was aware that the sanitary commission did not employ lady agents; and as their greatest need was now past, he should advise me to join some hospital as nurse. I thanked Mr. Fay kindly, and said I could not join hospital as nurse, being at the present time State agent for New York. As the sanitary did not require my services farther, I would reach White House landing by the medical purveyor boat, which had arrived the day before with medical supplies; on which were medical purveyor and the hospital stewards—my husband being one of the number. I met Colonel Cuyler, stated to him what had been said to me by Mr. Fay, the present captain of the water base of the sanitary commission.

"Very well," said Colonel Cuyler, "I will place you as superintendent over our cooking on the government barge as soon as we reach White House. You can oversee that, and attend to the wants of New York men at the same time."

I assented to the arrangement, and upon arriving at White House landing May 30th, reported to Dr. Dalton, chief medical officer, stating Colonel Cuyler's intentions, and was ordered to report myself and Miss Willits (a young lady volunteer nurse from Jersey City), for duty to Dr. Fox, the surgeon in charge of the barge. From the barge we fed the first wounded that came to White House from the field. After a day or two our stoves and cauldrons were brought on shore, and we occupied the remains of an old house. Here we fed our thousands again. We called it the Government kitchen; and from it regiments of New York men were supplied with nourishment—to which some of our volunteer lady nurses from New York city can certify. Mrs. Lyon, of Williamsburgh, L. I., and Mrs. Jenkins, of New York city, volunteered and faithfully worked until both returned home sick with the scenes

they had witnessed. Their superhuman exertions and overtaxed strength, they can inform all who may inquire of the labors of the New York State agent at White House. Senator Bell, of New York State, visited and remained with us a short time; and while there, helped us distribute coffee, meat, bread, and tea to the Tenth regiment of New York State heavy artillery. They were over fifteen hundred strong, but were worn and weary with a long march without rations of any kind. We fed them all, and they can testify to the benefit of having an agent on hand to give them help in their need.

We left White House and came to City Point June 18th. Here again we found plenty to do. The wounded were still coming; the ground was again covered with them, and our labors were no lighter. Our hospital was finally established a mile and a half from the landing at City Point. Our medical purveying boat moved around upon the Appomattox river, and the hospital wharf was built there as more convenient for the sick and wounded when needing to be removed. The government kitchen was kept in action, and I remained with it until the hospital kitchens were in good order, and the hospitals ready to receive their patients as they were sent from the field hospitals or the battle-field; then it was broken up, and I was relieved from doing double duty. From that time my labors were mostly distributing to our needy soldiers at the front, field hospitals and in rifle-pits. In the general hospital I am not needed as much (though I visit them now and then and distribute a portion of the supplies to them), because they have their surgeons, ladies and ward masters, for the divisions, sections and wards; while those at the front have to struggle on alone, having only their regimental surgeons, and some of those, not being efficient, or if so, extremely selfish and often intemperate. I am sorry to say many of our soldiers become the victims of the last mentioned evil in one way or the other.

I have found many friends to assist me in my arduous duties. Dr. Brinton, the medical purveyor, has kindly given me for the soldiers of such things as do not belong to government, but were turned in as hospital stores; has given me a home on the boat, when otherwise I should have been unpleasantly situated. One of the reasons for his doing so was, my husband being one of his stewards; another, he saw that I did not grudge to any State soldier that I found in need. He is thoroughly attached to the

government ; thinks that it should provide all the luxuries instead of being supplied by sanitary or christian commissions.

Gen. Grant has kindly given me a pass to visit the front with supplies, when other ladies are not permitted to go. Gen. Mead and Provost-Marshal Patrick have shown me great favor. I have been furnished transportation when in need of it. I think I have great need to be thankful to an over-ruling Providence for aiding and protecting me in this great work. I never felt more sensibly my dependence on a higher power than when, in the explosion of our ammunition boat at City Point, I sat on my horse, about sixty-five feet from the boat, when it exploded : pieces of shell, cannon balls, human flesh and sticks of timber, over and about me—no escape in any direction. I was hit, but not seriously hurt. I felt in that moment of destruction that no power but the Almighty could save. I still feel that God in his great mercy protected me in that terrible time.

I could continue to write, but my letter is already too long.

The money I have received from you at different times, to use for the soldier, has been faithfully expended and distributed according to my best judgment, of which I have sent you the vouchers. Still with all you send and have sent, I have not been able to reach every New York regiment. New York has an army of her own, and it needs immense supplies to give to all a mite.

With much respect truly yours,

Mrs. R. H. SPENCER.

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( No. 9. )

To JOHN F. SEYMOUR, Esq., *General Agent, &c.* :

Sir—With the opening of the campaign of 1864, we met, as we had often done before, in ministries to the first crowds of wounded coming in from the battle-field. This was at Belle Plain.

I was then in the employment of the United States Sanitary Commission, and you were presiding over and working with the volunteer and other agents from our State, in those never to be forgotten labors.

You are well aware by what steps the joint labors and counsels in the care of our suffering soldiers and in their transportation, as the base was changed from Belle Plain and Fredericksburgh to White House, and from White House to City Point, led to my

appointment as chief field agent for New York with the armies operating against Richmond.

On the 18th of July last, I resigned, at your request, the employ of the U. S. Sanitary Commission and accepted the above appointment.

The duties assigned me were mainly a continuation of those in which I had all along been engaged : a general oversight of the condition and wants of the soldiers of the State ; a vigilant inspection of the various means provided for their relief, and of their access to the stores of the U. S. Sanitary Commission and Christian Commission, and to those specially sent by your orders for their use ; regular conference with the army authorities to whom I habitually reported for direction and counsel, and advisory reports to yourself and to the agency at Washington as to whatever in my view might promote the welfare and comfort of New York soldiers.

They were the same in substance which, under various relations, had occupied me during the two previous years.

My first care was to see that the channels of access to the generous supplies furnished by the patriotic bounty of citizens of the State to the commissions above named, were freely opened to the soldiers of New York, and this upon the principle that these institutions and their varied and ample appliances were both the legitimate and the most economical and efficient instruments for carrying the bounty of our citizens to the soldiers in hospitals and in the front ; and that costly State agencies in the field were both needless and unwise. My aim and policy was to secure the ends of effectual relief to the soldier, with as little additional machinery and cost as possible to the State.

The arrangements of the sanitary commission in its stationary depots at the various large hospitals in the field, its special diet kitchens, and its abundant transportation in constant motion to all parts of the army, were so ample and complete, that every day's observation and experience contributed to confirm my views of their adequacy, and of the comparative costliness and inefficiency of State establishments attempting to operate on the same lines.

In these views I was fully sustained by the judgment of the authorities of the army, and I have all along estimated the value of my services both to the soldier and the State by the degree of success with which I was enabled to render existing general pro-

visions effectual to the relief of the New York soldiers' wants, and other and independent State machinery unnecessary.

It is for you and others in the field and in positions enabling them to judge correctly, to determine how far I was useful and successful in these aims.

In entire consistency with these general views, it gave me pleasure to second and promote the agency of Mrs. R. H. Speneer, whose peculiar position and relations, from the opening of the campaign, and especially after the establishment of the base of supply at City Point, enabled her to be of eminent service to the soldiers of the State. Her chief efforts were directed to giving efficiency to the appliances of the sanitary and christian commissions, and making their stores available to the New York soldier; and these great agencies and relief accepted willingly her intermediate services. But she possessed facilities besides for conveying to our men special supplies and comforts, without other expense than that of their cost in New York or Washington, and they were in the habit of resorting to her quarters in search of these. The stores selected and forwarded by you, and such as were added by the private bounty of local associations or generous private citizens, were, I have every reason to believe, distributed to good purpose, and it was part of my duty to verify these facts, and to certify you of them.

In the month of September there were from five to 10,000 patients in the field hospitals connected with the armies before Richmond. Very large numbers of these were men recruited in the early spring and who had been pushed forward into the field while the armies were in motion for the campaign. A large proportion were consequently unpaid for four, six and eight months, for there was no mustering for pay in the field hospitals, and they were separated from their regimental organizations.

Upon representation of these facts to the Paymaster General, he authorized me to procure accurate lists of the men and to report them to him. With the hearty cooperation of the hospital authorities and the kind cooperation of the clerks, this was quickly and accurately done at City Point, and upon representation of the facts through Mrs. Speneer to General Butler, the like process was gone through with in the hospitals of the army of the James. In the sequel, paymasters were sent down to pay all sets of six to ten of the same regiment in these hospitals; and authority was given me to collect the pay of isolated men, upon their brief or-

der, wherever their accounts could be cleared up upon the regimental rolls. Under this authority, I had the great satisfaction of collecting and paying to the men, or transmitting by express through the sanitary commission at Washington to their families, in the months of October and November, not less than \$15,000.

The facilities afforded me in the pay department for this service; the courteous assistance of the paymasters without exception, and the grateful acknowledgments of the men, will be among the most cherished memories of my services in the field; and I may be permitted to record here my acknowledgments, (after more than three years going in and out in all parts of the army and in the bureaus of the departments,) of the unvarying kindness and readiness to promote my service for the soldier, by which I have everywhere been cheered and which I can never forget.

In my intercourse with the soldiers in the front and in hospital, I found very many isolated cases of men entitled to State bounty, but from circumstances which they could not control, unpaid, and ignorant of the methods of procedure for obtaining it; and on my return from City Point on Nov. 10, upon finding the payment of these men suspended through the arrest and confinement of the officer entrusted with the duty, I undertook, at the written request of Col. Van Buren, the collection of the evidence of this class of claims, (at the office at Washington) and their liquidation. It soon became a very engrossing part of my duties. From Nov. 10, to the close of the year, my time was chiefly occupied at Washington. I made a journey through the Shenandoah valley to the front of our lines in December, in company with and by the invitation of a body of paymasters under ample escort, and was enabled to bear witness to and to report to you the estimate which I found made there of the valuable services of your medical agent, Dr. West, in connection with the hospitals; and also to the efficient service of the sanitary commission during the trials of this severe and bloody campaign. On the 23d December, under similar circumstances, I visited City Point and closed up the affairs of my agency there; returning to Washington, in compliance with your instructions; reported in person at Albany, closing the year with this report of my agency. After passing more than three years (with only the interval of two weeks in each year passed in the society of my family) in occupation directly connected with the welfare of our soldiers, and among them, I express only the common sentiment of my fellow-workers, when I say that the ser-

viee has every month taken stronger hold upon my sympathies and drawn me to itself with more powerful attractions.

All which is respeefully submitted.

J. V. VAN INGEN,

*N. Y. S. Field Agent.*

ALBANY, Dec. 31, 1864.

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( No. 10. )

VALLEY OF THE SHENANDOAH.

JOHN F. SEYMOUR, *General Agent for special relief of Sick and Wounded New York Soldiers.*

Sir—I have the honor to report that immediately after reeeiving your eommunieation requesting me to proeeed to the army operating in the valley of the Shenandoah, for the purpose of rendering professional aid to the siek and wounded soldiers from our State, and to obtain intelligence respecting the same, I took the earliest train and made all haste to that field.

On my arrival at Harper's Ferry I found it impossible to proceed at once to the front, but soon learning that there were several hospitals loeated here, I immediately eommeneed a tour of inspeetion to aseertain the eondition of the New York soldiers lying in them.

In these hospitals I found soldiers representing thirty-eight New York regiments. The wounded here were the slighter eases just reeeived from the battle of Winehester. I found but few eases suffering from severe diseases. Every attention was shown me by the surgeon in eharge of these hospitals, and I am pleased to say that I failed to find a single ease of eomplaint. After two days' delay at this point I found means to get to Winehester, where I arrived on the 7th of October.

At this place I found five general hospitals, viz.: the Sheridan, the 6th Army Corps, the 8th Army Corps, the 19th Army Corps, and the Cavalry Corps hospitals. The Sheridan is a field hospital, and is loated one mile from town. It has accommodations for 1,400 patients. The Army Corps hospitals are loated in town, each of whieh is made up of smaller hospitals designated as wards.

From neessity the ehurhes and the larger buildings of the town were converted into hospitals. I at once eommeneed visiting

these and found large numbers of the sick and wounded soldiers of New York. I made it my duty to ascertain their condition, to give them information concerning their wounds or diseases, hearing their complaints, removing the cause of their grievances when it was possible, and supplying such articles of comfort as their cases required. My time was thus occupied until the 19th of October, when, unexpectedly to all here, the battle of Cedar creek occurred. On the afternoon of this day the wounded in great numbers were brought into town. Soon our hospitals were filled and new ones organized. The aspect of affairs induced me to offer my services to the medical director, which were promptly and cordially accepted, and I was placed in charge of a hospital for wounded officers. Here I continued for nearly two weeks, when being enabled to obtain my release, I returned to my original duty. During this time I rendered more professional assistance to others than those under my immediate care.

Many persons from our State came on here for the purpose of visiting their sick and wounded friends or relatives, and to recover the remains of those who had fallen in the service of their country. Those that I met with I gave every assistance that laid in my power to aid them in accomplishing their object. I embalmed many bodies when the friends of the deceased had not the means of defraying the necessary expenses. This work was not entirely confined to the bodies of New York soldiers. I embalmed two from Iowa, one from Ohio, two from Pennsylvania, one from Vermont, two from Maine, and four from Massachusetts. I was enabled to do this work gratuitously, as the medical department furnished the materials.

I have received a number of letters of inquiry concerning sick and wounded soldiers in hospital. These were all answered, and the information given when it was possible for me to obtain it.

It affords me much pleasure to acknowledge my obligations to the medical director of the hospitals in Winchester, Dr. F. V. Hayden, and the surgeons in charge, for affording me every facility in prosecuting my labors in behalf of our sick and wounded soldiers. The rigid necessity of conforming to the general rules by which the quartermaster and the commissary departments of the government are controlled, rendered it impracticable at all times to meet unforeseen exigencies. The hand of voluntary and less restricted relief is then stretched out with profit and success. Here it is but justice to

state that the sanitary commission proves the necessity of its existence and its usefulness.

Only those who have served in the field can properly appreciate the vast amount of good done by this humane institution. To it the medical department is under the deepest obligation. Frequently have I heard surgeons say, "what should we do without the sanitary commission?" Much of the success which has crowned their labors has been owing to its benefactions and its aid. My extensive experience in the field demands this just testimonial to its value and efficiency.

The removal of the Sixth and Eighth army corps, and the absence of engagements, and also the reduced state of the hospitals rendering my stay no longer necessary, I shall close my labors here and proceed to Philadelphia, where you ordered me to report, and await such instructions as you may judge the interests of the agency may demand.

Very respectfully,

J. E. WEST, M. D.

WINCHESTER, V.A., Dec. 20th, 1864.

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(No. 11.)

DR. THEODORE DIMON'S REPORT OF THE NEW YORK STATE AGENCY.

NORFOLK, March 10th, 1864.

JOHN F. SEYMOUR, *General Agent State of New York:*

Sir—I present the following report as an abstract of my services as State Agent in the Department of Eastern Virginia for the months of January and February, 1864:

The winter months in this department are the most healthy of the year, and consequently my ordinary duties have been light. Nevertheless the usual applications to me, for assistance and relief in the following particulars, have been made by our soldiers and attended to by me to the best of my ability, viz. :

For advice and assistance in presenting and pressing claims for pay withheld on account of informalities or accidental occurrences.

For furloughs in cases of sickness, or of family distress, or after long service.

For discharges on account of disability or of false representations on enlistment.

For obtaining detached and pay certificates to enable them to receive pay when in general hospital or on detached service.

For clothing, blankets, bed-ticks, food, &c., for the sick soldier, or one who had lost articles in the service and could not afford to get more out of his pay.

For correspondence with the relatives of soldiers about their health and condition, &c.

For aiding furloughed and discharged soldiers in securing their rights of transportation to their homes.

For procuring the transfer of sick soldiers from general hospitals in this department to those in our own State, where the climate was better adapted to their recovery, &c., &c.

In the performance of these duties it gives me pleasure to state that I have maintained friendly relations with the medical and military authorities of the United States, and have always found them ready to attend to my representations and requests in all proper cases.

Soon after the 1st of January, 1864, you assigned me the additional duty of facilitating the correspondence of relatives and friends with our soldiers' prisoners of war to the rebel authorities. This has given me a very large and absorbing amount of fresh duty. This correspondence has not been confined to people of our own State, but has included almost every loyal State. My rule has been to render the same service to every one, no matter from what State the letters or requests came. This correspondence has consisted of flag of truce letters; those conforming to the rules, and those not; those containing remittances and those not; those accompanied by the necessary United States and confederate postage and those not; those for prisoners of war and those for friends living in the South.

Also letters of inquiry, viz.: Is such a soldier still living? In what prison is he confined? Is he sick? What can I send him and how can I send it? &c., &c. The greater part of these letters state that repeated "flag of truce" letters have been sent and nothing heard from them.

In regard to flag of truce letters, where they do not conform to the rules, they are either sent to the dead letter office or destroyed when they reach the respective inspectors. They are so numerous that if a reply was sent to each writer the respective flag of truce letter inspectors would not get through the examinations in time

to be of any great serviee to those whose letters are right.  
repeat here these rules :

- 1st. To be written on one side of a half sheet only.
- 2d. Residenee of writer in full, giving town and State at the top.
- 3d. Full address of the person written to, viz : full name, rank, regiment and eompany.
- 4th. Letters confined to domestie and personal matters.
- 5th. Name of writer signed in full at the bottom.
- 6th. Three eent United States postage stamp inelosed for postage from Fort Monroe to City Point. Five eents also in eurrenney for Confederate postage to Riehmond, and ten eents for all plaees bey nond Riehmond.

Simple though these rules seem, yet many letters do not accord with any one of them. I have remedied these defects whenever I could—in some instances writing letters myself stating that I was a neighbor rendering this service, lest the solder might think that the letter was not for him from not reeognizing the handwriting. In many other instances I have been obliged to send letters baek aeeompanied by minute explanations of the rules. In all postage cases where that was the only defect I have always furnished it.

In regard to letters of inquiry; I have replied to them all, giving all the information I could, and direeting also application to be made to Major General E. A. Hitehcoek, Bureau of Prisoners of War, Washington, D. C., for further information, as the rolls of our prisoners held by the rebel authorities are all sent to him whenever obtained; and giving also sueh other adviee as under the cireumstances seemed to me likely to be servieeable.

In regard to sending boxes of supplies also, I have had many inquiries. I repeat here what I have before written you, and the information I have sent to every correspondent on this point.

Boxes of moderate size, marked with the name, rank, regiment and eompany of the soldier, can be sent to Fort Monroc, and they will be forwarded if eontaining elothing, food, and books for reading only. These boxes and money in letters can be sent to prisoners of war only. Private persons are not allowed to reeeive either.

I eommeneed this part of my duties with an endeavor to keep a detailed record of all this correspondence, but it soon beeame so extensive that this was impossible, and in some eases it would have been a violation of eonfidence. I have reeeived many letters of thanks for my attention to these letters, from wives who had written again and again to thier husbands in vain, not knowing till

now why their letters had not been received. Fathers, brothers, mothers and sisters have opened their anxious hearts to me in this correspondence, from all parts of the country, and I hope not altogether in vain. The shrinking delicacy of woman's affection has, as it always does in times of suffering, found itself courage, in this distress also, to send consolation and seek aid for its loved ones. The restrained affection, anxiety, distress and agony of these letters impress one with a remarkable picture of some of the features of this war. One is too striking to be passed unnoticed. There has not been expressed a single complaint that any one of all these prisoners enlisted, but, on the contrary, expressions of patience, resignation and courage that make me feel as if we in this generation (notwithstanding all the shoddy and all the money-making of those politicians who only see speculation and consideration in this horrible war), were not altogether unworthy of the immense blessings those truly great men of the revolution obtained for us, and which we must transmit at any and every cost to our descendants, or remain an instance that enjoyment of the best government and the richest favors Divine Providence ever bestowed on any people has deteriorated our blood and manhood till we are unworthy of their possession, by being recreant to their maintenance.

I recall again to your attention my suggestions, made in January, about obtaining from the Bureau of Prisoners of War, at Washington, the roll of those prisoners from our State, and having it published with monthly corrections.

You cannot conceive the anxiety and suspense of the friends at home, as evinced by their letters to me, as to whether the "missing" are dead or prisoners—as to whether a prisoner "still lives." This roll would relieve many trembling hearts, and so far be of great service. Nobody can estimate how much distress has been relieved by that noble and unexampled institution, the Sanitary Commission, in the mere information it has officially given to friends and relatives, in regard to our sick and wounded in our own hospitals. I have seen a strong man's hair grow white, and his face look like the dust of which we were made, while hunting the field hospitals, after Antietam, for his son, not knowing if he was dead or alive. I need not recall to you what you saw at Gettysburg. Cannot, then, something be done to relieve this awful suspense about our prisoners at Richmond and elsewhere?

It is true that flag of truce correspondence furnishes a very great  
[Senate, No. 83.]

amelioration of this distress. But this correspondence is slow and uncertain, from the very nature of things. It is not known where any particular prisoner is confined, and a letter may thus be wrongly directed, and consequently not received. Lack of the means of writing or paying postage, on the part of the prisoner; mistakes in the names of prisoners of war, so that rightly directed letters do not go to wrongly named prisoners on the rolls, &c., &c., including also the possible fact of indifference on the part of those in charge of these details as to whether any particular yankee or rebel gets his letter or has it sent.

It seems to me that a simple plan could be devised, attended only with such expense as is not only reasonable, but as warrantable as any incurred in this war, to very greatly relieve our soldiers and their relatives in this particular.

If an arrangement was made by which, to an officer at each side, stationed at Washington and Richmond respectively, bi-monthly or monthly, even, reports should be made of every prisoner of war held by either party, giving the changes from previous report, made by death, escape, exchange or fresh capture, and stating also the place of confinement. Such rolls could be exchanged. Also, let all letters making inquiries, addressed to such officers by any body from the opposite party, be forwarded, and neither postage deficiencies or any other informality stop them, and let such letters be officially answered and otherwise attended to. Such an officer would require six or a dozen clerks to attend to the business, but how small an expense would this be in comparison with the relief it would afford. I suggest this, not because in this war the whole people of all the states have not shown an unexampled evidence of conducting it with less of inhumanity than ever yet characterized any war, and that too where it was a civil war, which has animosities and contingencies calculated to peculiarly embitter it, but because I am not only proud of this, but hopeful also that as we are thus showing ourselves of one race, we may also recover the practical belief that we have a common destiny, and with this re-establish a common good will and friendship.

I must apologize for introducing into my report anything beyond the details of my official duties, as State agent here. But the subject matter of these duties has rendered it next to impossible to avoid this, and this must be my excuse.

THEODORE DIMON, *Agent State of New York.*

P. S.—I am happy to say that there appears to be at present some more encouraging evidences of the re-opening of an exchange of prisoners.

I have used the arrangement you made with the sanitary commission to supply our soldiers, with a very good and pleasant effect.

THEODORE DIMON.

NORFOLK, VA., May 28th, 1864.

Mr. JOHN F. SEYMOUR,

*General Agent State of New York :*

Sir—Since active operations of the army commenced in this military department, May 6th, 1864, I have been twice to the front, above Bermuda Hundred, between the James and Appomattox rivers, spending several days visiting our regiments and the field hospitals. The plans for the care of our wounded had been matured by Medical Director McCormick, U. S. A., before the movements, and have been admirably carried out. I have never seen the wounded half so well provided for. A separate dock for the medical department was made on the James, at the Hundreds and on the Appomattox, five miles above, at Rocky Point ; the former has been mainly used for the 10th corps wounded, and the latter for the 18th. A large supply of every surgical appliance and hospital store was deposited there, and arrangements made for increasing these at a moment. From these points supplies are forwarded to the field as needed, and to these points the wounded are brought in ambulances and on stretchers, from the field hospitals, as soon as primary operations and dressings have been completed on the field. At these points there are several large, airy, clean steamers, expressly fitted up with single cots, with space around each one, and provided with every needed surgical and hospital appliance, and a sufficient supply of medical officers and attendants ; also, with extensive cooking arrangements. These steamers receive the wounded from the field hospitals, when every one gets a fresh dressing, washing, clean shirt, &c., and a cot, with mattress, pillows, &c., &c., clean sheets and pillow cases, and a plenty of food and attention. On these steamers they are transported by water to Hampton and Chesapeake General Hospitals, at Fort Monroe. Messages are constantly exchanged between the field hospitals and the steamer landings, so that no poor fellows lie in the hot sun or rain, or at night at the landings, waiting the arrival of steamers. For those slightly wounded, who make

their way on foot to the landings, comfortable tents are pitched, in case of delay on account of their coming down unexpectedly. On arriving at Fort Monroe, the wounded are taken charge of by Acting Medical Director Dr. Ely McClellan, U. S. A., who is one of the most thoroughly efficient medical officers I ever saw. He has charge of all the medical department at the fort, Dr. McCormick being in the field.

These medical officers have so fully brought to bear all the resources of the medical department of the fort, that there is only one opening for our assistance, and that is only temporary, though very useful, when there is a large number of wounds suddenly occurring; then, under the system established, there is a chance for us to take our place in it to render temporary aid so long as it is needed. Every facility is afforded to me and the christian commission delegates to render personal aid and kindly offices, and to furnish those grateful fresh fruits, &c., that it is in our power to afford. Our old friend, Mr. Cross, of the christian commission, is here with a corps of delegates, as efficient and indefatigable as ever.

The Norfolk market is full of fresh vegetables and strawberries, &c. Here the hospital fund would be exhausted on milk, eggs, chickens, butter, &c., before it could reach fresh fruits and vegetables. Seeing the need and occasion, I led off in the purchase of these things, though our means are limited and confined to our own State; but the Christian commission, though sadly short of funds, promptly joined me in this, as they generally lead in all good works for the soldiers. And we have managed together to afford all soldiers valuable relief in these respects. The proportion of the New York wounded here is about one-sixth of the whole number. The whole number of New York wounded received at all the general hospitals here being between 600 and 700, the total from all States being about 4,000.

General Butler left his entrenchments again yesterday morning for another advance, and I suppose there must be at once a large number of fresh casualties. I find my true place is at the general hospitals here. I leave Norfolk at 7 A. M. daily with strawberries, &c., and spend the day at Hampton and Chesapeake, returning at 6 P. M. So far as one man can do anything among so many, I assure you that the gratification and reward is great. I have a long array of bright and grateful eyes daily before me, as I go through the wards. I have a most pleasant and cordial understanding with

the surgeons in charge, and all my suggestions, professional and personal, are received with respect, and not unfrequently acted upon. I copy from my note-book a remark or two in this respect:

"So many lives depend in surviving wounds and amputations and surgical operations wholly and solely upon the general condition of the patient's system, and this condition is improved so eminently by cleanliness, attention, kindness, and good air and acceptable and nourishing food, that it may be said all-important, mere surgery, though ever so skillfully rendered, will fail without these concomitants. In the army, where men in the field live on pork and hard bread, and drink bad water, and sleep or stand guard and picket duty about swamps and in malarial districts, the wounded come to the hospitals in a bad state of general health, and here it is pre-eminently necessary to support the system by all those natural means which, where rightly viewed and used, are our best medicines. Fresh fruits and vegetables are as needful to these patients as they are to a case of scurvy; and I am greatly gratified and encouraged to find that Drs. McClellan and White, in chief charge, recognize, as all experienced army surgeons do, the necessity and importance of these views."

The surgery here is to save, and not to destroy; and it is no longer allowed a surgeon to boast of the number of his operations, but only of the number of limbs and lives he has saved. I give you a fair instance.

There have been received at the Hampton general hospital 547 wounded New York soldiers. Since May 6th to date viz., 28th, of these but 10 have died, and these all arrived within 24 to 36 hours of receiving their wounds—bad cases and all. Less than 2 per cent, thus far, of our brave fellows have died of their wounds in this hospital. I sent you a notice of arrangement made with Dr. McClellan about forwarding supplies. Same day I made an arrangement with provost marshal at Norfolk to regulate for me and the Christian commission the prices of what we buy for hospitals, so that the speculators should not deprive the soldiers of the full benefit of our money.

Thanking you for your authorization of these purchases, and for your *carte blanche* as to my going where I could do the best, I assure you I will do it to the best of my ability.

If there is another severe fight as on the 16th, I may go again to the front. I was there that day, and remained till the 20th.

Respectfully your obed't servant,

THEODORE DIMON,

*Agent State New York.*

DR. THEO. DIMON'S REPORT TO THE NEW YORK STATE AGENCY.

NORFOLK, VA., August 20, 1864.

D. WILLERS, Jr., *Private Sec'y Governor S. N. Y.:*

Sir—The communication of the 15th of July, 1864, sent me by you in regard to Bernard McMullen, private company A, 100th N. Y. Vols., prisoner under military sentence in Norfolk jail, has not received my attention till within a day or two past, owing to the fact that I was, by orders of the general agent of the State, at the north during part of the months of July and August, and subsequently engaged in going to City Point to establish a field agency.

I have to report in the case of McMullen, that he was released from confinement in the jail, on the 26th of July, and is now serving out the remainder of his sentence at camp Hamilton, in military dress and the usual military restrictions only. I have the honor to report also that I have examined the law of Congress in that respect, the orders of the generals, the sentencees of court martial and the places of confinement, including quarters, clothing, food, labor and treatment of our soldiers in this district under sentence to labor and forfeiture of pay and allowances for a term of months or years, and I am satisfied, that in all respects, the general fact is that soldiers receiving these sentencees thereby escape execution; that the orders in their cases are according to law of Congress, which was passed to avoid the death penalty, as also is the ease with the sentencees of courts martial, and that these sentencees are not carried out in the labor prisons in a spirit of heightening, but rather of ameliorating the punishment of the soldier. The convict dress is put on to save the expense of a large guard, and on the same principle as it is put on our State convicts. Quarters, food, labor and treatment, are preferable to our State prison arrangements, and 99 in 100 are released long before their term of punishment expires.

I have procured the release of several New York soldiers and am always met in my applications by the military authorities with every apparent courtesy and disposition to do justice to our soldiers.

I am happy to be able to report thus favorably because my first impressions were altogether hostile to the idea that our soldiers should be considered in the light of ordinary convicts and exposed to shame in the peculiar dress, &c., of convicts, when punished for military offenses.

I send you a list of New York soldiers and their sentencees, so confined up to July first. In the case of John C. Johnson, company G, 112th N. Y., to which you refer as a case previously presented to me, I could not interfere. His sentencee was mild for his offense, only six months for deserting post, and as he only complained of the dress and labor, and not of the term of sentencee, there was no ground to interfere for him. Two others of the same name, I have procured to be restored to their companies and pay, who were under heavy sentencees. Indeed, there is no disposition to keep the men out of the ranks if a good reason can be found to restore them to the service; and to a man justly confined it is no great kindness this year to send him into the field to be shot unless he is desirous of wiping off the stain on his character from crime by his blood shed in the field. There are, however, cases of technical military offenses, the punishment for which is severe, where I am certain after a short confinement to obtain release, and when sometimes the sentencee is set aside by the general from the moment of finding. One such case I found here not long after my arrival last year of a man sentenced to three years hard labor for deserting post. He was in the 3d N. Y. infantry, and it was to my mind evidently a case of severity for which his own regimental officers were to blame. I wrote to president Lincoln and very soon obtained his restoration to his regiment. I have written at length on this subject for two reasons, that the Governor may be satisfied that no improper harshness is applied intentionally to the soldier, and that in every case it is easy to obtain amelioration of punishment where the circumstances will admit of it, with any show of propriety.

Respectfully your obedient servant,

THEODORE DIMON,

*Agent S. N. Y.*

Hon. JOHN F. SEYMOUR, *General Agent of the State of New York:*

Sir—I respectfully submit a report of the agency of the State in the district of Eastern Virginia from January 1st, 1864, to December 1st, 1864.

This agency was established in September, 1863, at which time there were twenty New York regiments stationed in the district. This number did not vary much till April, 1864, when a much larger number of our soldiers were concentrated for the campaign under Gen. Butler.

The U. S. general hospitals in this district have received their patients from Gen. Butler's "Army of the James," while those from the army of the Potomac have been sent to Washington. The army of the James constitutes two-fifths of the force operating against Richmond.

From January 1st, 1864, to December 1st, 1864, there have been admitted to the general hospitals of this district over seven thousand sick and wounded New York soldiers.

The business of your agent has been to visit these soldiers and render them such assistance as they needed, and was in his power to furnish. This assistance has been of two kinds, viz: furnishing physical supplies, and attending to the rights and interests of the soldier.

The physical relief afforded from the funds of the agency has been chiefly confined to supplying fresh fruits, such as apples, strawberries, lemons, oranges, etc., and to furnishing a good quality of bottled ale to those whose wounds were suppurating extensively, or who were suffering from gangrene. Articles of clothing have been obtained by your agent through an arrangement for that purpose with the sanitary commission, which arrangement terminated in September; but since, upon representation of need, the christian and sanitary commissions send these supplies in response to the application of your agent.

Assistance in regard to the rights and interests of our soldiers has been given by your agent, by obtaining for them transfer from hospitals here to New York hospitals; furloughs; discharges from the service for disability; pardons from imprisonment; release from arrest; bounties due; descriptive lists to enable them to receive pay; transfer of insane to asylum; aid in going home on furlough; facilitating removal of deceased soldiers to their friends by correspondence with relatives of soldiers, and by aiding flag of truce correspondence with our prisoners of war.

Your agent has kept a register of New York soldiers admitted to these general hospitals, and has sent reports of the same to the Adjutant General of the State.

The amount of the appropriation made by the Legislature pre-

cluded the idea of any general expenditure for physical relief; since the sum appropriated, if applied to the purchase and distribution of supplies, would have been wholly inadequate for two years service. The rule having been adopted not to divert the gifts of our people from the sanitary and christian commissions to the State agency, the latter has enjoyed no benefit from this quarter, except by calling on these commissions in behalf of cases of need among our soldiers, and these calls have, in the case of the agency here, been promptly and freely responded to.

The relief fund of the agency has been reserved for unusual emergencies. For a time after the opening of the campaign this year these emergencies were great and severe. This was an unavoidable contingency of the campaign, and notwithstanding the immense preparations of the medical department of the army, and the assistance rendered by the commissions and the State agents, a great deal of suffering must have gone unrelieved.

The law of our State contemplates furnishing aid to our soldiers in general hospitals, or in transit to their homes, rather than in the field; and the work of the agency has been mainly founded upon this requirement. The people, however, have manifested a decided expectation that State aid should be extended to the soldier in the field. Such aid has not been withheld, but by necessity has been occasional only. Early in this campaign this subject was taken up in your correspondence with me, and I recommended a systematized and permanent extension of the agency to the armies operating against Richmond. After full discussion of the details of the plan, and after selection of judicious and experienced agents to undertake the duties, and after obtaining the consent of the military authorities to these agents accompanying the army and aiding our soldiers so long as they conformed to military orders and regulations, the plan failed of accomplishment from the lack of the funds necessary to meet the expense of it.

Appended will be found a statement of the number of New York soldiers admitted to the general hospitals in this district, and of the deaths occurring among them, together with other details in regard to them; also, a statement of the relief afforded, and an inventory of the property of the State at this agency.

Respectfully submitted by

THEODORE DIMON, *Agent State of New York.*

NORFOLK, VA., No. 74 Main street, Dec. 12th, 1864.

*Statement of soldiers of New York admitted to the U. S. General Hospitals in the District of Eastern Virginia, from January 1, 1864, to November 30, 1864.*

Admitted	7,045
Discharged for disability	32
Discharged by expiration of term of service	19
Transferred to Northern hospitals	3,720
Deserted	6
Died	381
Returned to duty	1,484

*Statement of relief afforded by New York State Agent to New York soldiers, in the Department of Eastern Virginia, from January 1, 1864, to November 30, 1864.*

Discharges for disability procured	17
Transfers to New York general hospitals procured	540
Aid in obtaining furloughs	65
Pardons from imprisonment procured	5
Releases from arrest procured	23
Bounties due procured	38
Descriptive lists obtained	154
Transfer to lunatic asylum	1
Aid to furloughed soldiers	53
Aiding in removal of bodies of deceased soldiers to their friends	36
Number receiving physical relief from agent	1,250
Number of letters written by agent to relatives of sick, wounded and deceased, and of prisoners of war	1,283

*Inventory of property of the State of New York at the Agency at Norfolk, Virginia, December 1, 1864.*

One large table	\$12 00
One small table	2 00
Four chairs at 10s. each	5 00
One coal scuttle and sifter	1 50
 Total amount	 \$20 50
	=====

I certify the above inventory to include all the property of the State of New York at the State agency at Norfolk, Virginia, December 1, 1864, and that the value attached to each article is a fair and reasonable one.

THEODORE DIMON,

*Agent State of New York.*

NORFOLK, Va., December 1, 1864.

( No. 12. )

N. Y. STATE AGENCY, EIGHTY-FIVE WEST FAYETTE ST., {  
 BALTIMORE, MARYLAND, December 8, 1864. }

Mr. JOHN F. SEYMOUR, *General Agent State of New York:*

In accordance with your request, I submit a report of the business, &c., of the Baltimore branch of the New York State agency, organized under the act of the Legislature "to provide additional means of relief for the sick and wounded soldiers of New York, in the United States service."

My report will necessarily be general in its character, partly in consequence of the variety of the duties performed, and partly for the reason that, not having control of the business until within the few past weeks, I did not make statistical notes, and keep memoranda with the care I would have done had I known that the responsibility of writing a report would devolve on me.

Personal observation during the last five months, and limited knowledge of the business previous to my appointment as agent in June last, acquired from authentic sources, will enable me to comprise in my report the period of time between the first days of March and December, 1864.

The hospitals in this city, and those at the cities of Wilmington and Annapolis; at Annapolis Junction, and at Camp Parol, near Annapolis; also, the two small-pox hospitals—one on the Patapsco river, near Baltimore, the other on Chesapeake bay, near Annapolis—are, for the purposes of the above mentioned act, within the jurisdiction of this agency. And when I inform you that these general hospitals, exclusive of the two appropriated to small-pox cases, and also of four post hospitals located respectively at Forts McHenry, Marshall, Federal Hill and at Camp Bradford, have capacity for no less than eight thousand one hundred and fifty beds, which for the most part have been occupied, an idea may be formed of the labor required, and of the opportunities presented for relieving the sick and wounded soldiers of our State.

Below I furnish the names and capacities of the U. S. general hospitals in the middle department, eighth army corps:

Jarvis, West Baltimore street, Baltimore, Md .....	1,380	beds.
Patterson Park, East Lombard street, Baltimore, Md .....	1,200	"
National, Camden street, Baltimore, Md .....	400	"
West's Building, Union dock, Baltimore, Md .....	425	"
McKims, McKims street, Baltimore, Md .....	300	"
Newton, Lexington street, Baltimore, Md .....	200	"

Officers hospital, navy yard, Annapolis, Md .....	409	beds.
Division No. 1, do do .....	1,117	"
Division No. 2, St. John's college, do .....	661	"
Annapolis Junetion, Annapolis Junetion, Md .....	290	"
Camp Parol, near Annapolis, Md .....	1,416	"
Tilton, Wilmington, Del .....	352	"
	<hr/>	
	8,150	"
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In addition to the above hospital capacity at Camp Parol, there is also at that place bed capacity for about 7,000 paroled prisoners of war, making an aggregate of 15,150 beds.

The following statistics relate to New York soldiers exclusively, in the middle department:

The number of patients in hospital March 1st, 1864 .....	712	
The number admitted from March 1st to Nov. 30th, 1864, inclusive .....	12,577	
	<hr/>	
	13,289	
	<hr/>	

Of these there has been returned to duty .....	6,129	
transferred out of department .....	5,214	
deserted .....	420	
been discharged .....	184	
died .....	407	
Remain in hospital Nov. 30th, 1864 .....	926	
	<hr/>	
	13,289	
	<hr/>	

In the officer's hospital at Annapolis, opened May 19th, 1864, there has been admitted to Nov. 30th, 1864, 509.

Of these there has been discharged .....	64	
returned to duty .....	239	
deserted .....	3	
died .....	2	
Patients remaining in hospital Nov. 30, 1864 .....	201	
	<hr/>	
	509	
	<hr/>	

To ascertain the condition of the sick and wounded, and administer as much as possible to their relief, we have visited, with the exception of the one at Wilmington, not only all of the above named hospitals, but also that at Harrisburgh, and on special occasions those at Frederick City, which contain about sixteen hundred beds. In July last I went to the latter place and found one hundred and eighty-one men who had been wounded on the 9th of that month in the terrible and disastrous battle of Monocacy. Of

these, sixty-seven were from the State of New York and mostly of the 9th regiment, heavy artillery and of the 106th regiment N. Y. infantry. As the hospitals were only three or four miles from the field, those most severely wounded were conveyed to them, while others less so, were sent to Baltimore and other distant places.

I may remark here, that changes rapidly occur in the location of patients by transfer, in consequence of the necessity of keeping room in hospitals nearest the front to receive those most severely wounded in successive battles.

The one at Frederic, and indeed all the hospitals within this branch of the New York agency, are under such general good management, in charge of such competent surgeons, with their respective corps of efficient assistants, and attended, with exceptional cases, by such careful and experienced nurses, some of them benevolent ladies from various and distant parts of the country, that comparatively little in the way of relieving physical suffering remains for the State agents to perform.

One day last summer on entering a hospital ward in this city, my attention was attracted to the cot of a dying man, by whose side sat a lady who had left friends and her distant northern home to become a hospital nurse. By her anxious care and gentle manner a stranger might have judged her to be the soldiers daughter. It was then noon, and I was subsequently informed that she had not moved from the spot, except to serve him, since the midnight before. I stood some moments at the foot of the bed contemplating with mingled feelings of sorrow and admiration the scene of human suffering and female loveliness, before she became conscious of my presence, so intently she watched, lest the slightest opportunity might escape to relieve his anguish. In my conversation with her she said: "this poor old man, a German, has only one relative in this country, a daughter, of whom he often talked and dearly loved. I thought it might soothe her anguish to learn that a woman nursed him in his sickness and dying hour, and therefore, on his own and her account, I try to feel and act as I think she would if she herself were here."

About two hours after I went into the ward again. The cot was vacant; clean white sheets were spread over it; the old man's flickering light of life had gone out; his body had been taken to the dead house, and she who had nursed him for his own and his daughter's sake, exhausted by long, unbroken watchfulness, had retired to repose.

I have thus alluded to this touching incident, which exhibits war's lights as well as shadows, to solace those whose relatives and friends fate may hereafter cast sick or wounded into the hospitals of this department. They will always receive kind treatment, and in many instances the most tender care.

In hospitals, when soldiers have not their descriptive lists, it is difficult and sometimes impossible for them to obtain wearing apparel sufficient for a change. In such cases, being destitute of money, often in consequence of not having received for many months their government pay, much inconvenience and some suffering would ensue, unless relieved from a charitable source. These wants are discovered by visiting the hospitals, or by personal application of the men at this office; and have been supplied, so far as practicable, by this agency.

The most general want, however, and, I may say, need of hospital soldiers, is tobacco. Although, perhaps, somewhat directly injurious to health, it seems, nevertheless, to calm their restiveness, buoy their minds and render them comparatively cheerful; and thus, the happy influence of emotions it excites on their physical health, far outweighs in my judgment any deleterious effects from its use. Chewing and smoking in hospitals may be regarded as employments. The soldier's life there is most dull, monotonous and depressing. For successive weeks and months he is confined by sickness or wounds. He thinks of home, mother, wife and children, and longs to be with them, but cannot, either through physical weakness, the want of pecuniary means, or inability, for some reason, to obtain a furlough, or be transferred to his own State. The influences around him, except the kindness of strangers, are depressing. In the same ward with him are men frightfully wounded, others sick and some dying. The atmosphere he breathes is offensive with impurities which the greatest care cannot prevent. He grows weary of plain diet, and, if able to walk, of the daily routine of marching to his meals. His spirits droop, his hopes are paralyzed, and he becomes afflicted with the worst type of chronic melancholy. Now, he hankers without a cent, after something; and moistens a finger against his tongue with the hope that a few ancient particles of tobacco dust may adhere to it, as he fumbles through his already well scraped pockets. I have seen men cheerful when first brought into hospital, though suffering from wounds, gradually become disheartened as their wounds healed up, and finally sink into

despair. For a mind diseased, under such circumstances, I am satisfied that tobacco is a valuable antidote, and, therefore, have caused considerable quantities of it to be distributed among the soldiers of our State. It is impossible, however, to limit kind offices to the New York men; and especially in distributing tobacco, one cannot say, "*no*" to the imploring looks of those from other States.

I have alluded thus particularly to this subject, with the hope of contributing a mite to the effort which I am informed is being made, to induce the Government to furnish soldiers with tobacco rations.

The entrance of a New York State agent into a hospital ward immediately creates the most pleasant excitement among the men of that State. Those well enough gather around, and the sick turn to look at him. No matter where the soldier's body is, the heart is at home; and he regards any one from his State as a neighbor and friend. To talk with him, therefore, not only makes him happy, but does him good. When I informed a sick man that I had been sent to Baltimore by our State, in behalf of its sick and wounded soldiers, grateful tears suffused his eyes, as he took my hand, and said, in broken accents, "How kind that is; to know I am thus cared for does me more good than medicine!" I have, therefore, devoted much time with our soldiers at the hospitals; and, as tobacco, in cases where they desire it, seems to have a beneficial influence on the mind, it has been my general custom, on approaching each man, to present him with some, in order that my words might take the stronger hold, and thus yield more abundant fruits of contentment and cheerfulness.

Military hospitals are good schools to study the influence of mental conditions on health, and the power of endurance. My experience may not have been sufficiently frequent to justify me in unqualifiedly asserting it to be a law of nature, that more men will recover from wounds inflicted in a battle where they are victorious, than in one, other things equal, where they are defeated. After the disastrous battle at Monocacy, however, the contrast was manifest between the spirits of our own men and the confederates who had been wounded. While the former were gloomy and despondent, the latter were comparatively cheerful and hopeful of recovery. An accompanying surgeon also noticed the same fact. At Jarvis hospital, observing an athletic man, who had been brought in from one of Sheridan's victorious engagements, in great agony from a wound, I approached him and said "You seem to

suffer intensely." "Oh, yes," he replied, "and I couldn't stand it, if we hadn't given them such a drubbing!" Numerous instances of like nature have come within my observation.

In addition to administering physical relief in cases of special necessity, to furnishing various articles of luxury, and gratifying and encouraging men by conversation and sympathy, we have aided them by obtaining State bounties, furloughs and transfers; their discharges, when no longer fit for service; back pay and transportation to their homes, and their rations during confinement as prisoners of war. Numerous letters of complaint and for relief, for investigation by the Governor of New York, received by him from soldiers at forts and in hospitals in this department, and these letters of course have received our prompt attention. We have been called on for pecuniary aid by soldiers passing through this city, who complained of having lost or having been robbed of their money; and when satisfied of their good faith by careful examination, we have either furnished or aided them in procuring the means of traveling. Soldiers occasionally suffer through dishonesty of superior officers to whom they entrust money. I recently obtained for a paroled prisoner one hundred and fifteen dollars from his captain, to whom he had given it many months before for transmission to a dependent wife and children. We have also furnished writing materials and postage stamps; telegraphed and written in their behalf to relatives and friends. In numerous instances their families, especially after a battle, have addressed to this office letters of inquiry concerning their fate or condition. Such letters have always been immediately attended to, and our efforts in obtaining the required information have generally been successful. It has frequently been our painful duty to transmit to the soldier's home the first intelligence of his death. In such cases we have made diligent inquiry after any alleviating facts which may have attended it, in order, by communicating them also, to abstract somewhat from the poignancy of sorrow. I intend no reflection by implication on the most excellent management of any of the hospitals in this department by more special allusion to those at Annapolis. At Patterson Park, in the suburbs of this city, and at Camp Parol, places for shelter, to wash, sleep and eat in, are rudely constructed for temporary use, unshaded by trees, and the grounds, though kept thoroughly clean, are without grass-plats or lawns. No human effort can make such hospitals so comfortable interiorly, or so

pleasant in their surroundings, as those at Annapolis, where art and nature combine for the welfare of the sick and wounded. The numerous, substantial and commodious buildings formerly occupied by the naval school, and also those at St. John's College, with their extensive lawns, shaded by trees and intersected by winding paths, are occupied as general hospitals. The beautiful land and water scenery of the surrounding country, and cool breezes from the Chesapeake, contribute to charm the senses and elevate the spirits of the thousands of emaciated, ghastly-looking beings who arrive there from the Libby and other southern prisons.

The best use is made of the excellent culinary facilities; and here paroled prisoners obtain, what they have been long unaccustomed to, viz., an abundance and variety of well cooked vegetable diet, so grateful to their taste and essential to the health. I have never heard a soldier at Annapolis speak but in praise of his treatment there. It is true that his mind, immediately after his arrival, becomes in the most fit state to appreciate, if not to magnify, their newly acquired blessings. The poisonous atmosphere of a crowded southern prison; the hard floor for a bed, or a pallet of straw; coarse, unwholesome and badly cooked food, dealt out in starving proportions, are all suddenly exchanged for the comforts and some luxuries which skill and kindness can procure. A soldier, then recently from Richmond, in speaking of the contrast, said: "I feel as if I were translated from the lower regions into Paradise!" It is almost impossible to conceive of the wretchedness of men who have long been inmates of southern prisons. That they are badly treated there, is evident from their universal testimony, corroborated by the conclusive evidence of their physical condition. I have heard some, however, allege, that their treatment was as good as that of rebel soldiers, and justify southern authorities by the plea of necessity. When the paroled prisoners who have sufficient strength to survive the voyage, arrive at Annapolis, they are at once relieved of filth and vermin by thorough cleansing, and clad in new, clean clothes. The sick are carried into the hospitals, and others are sent to Camp Parol, two miles distant. This post is under command of Col. A. G. Root, 94th Regt., N. Y. V., and excepting officers in charge and assistants, and troops on duty as guards, it is wholly occupied by paroled prisoners of war. It is the most responsible, and perhaps the most difficult post to manage in the whole department. Many

are convalescents from hospitals. With nothing to do, able to travel, desirous of going home, their nervous systems shattered by previous sickness and suffering, they are naturally fretful and discontented. To the strict discipline and judicious treatment of those in charge, must be attributed the good order which prevails.

At Annapolis, besides the general hospitals at the naval school, and at St. John's College, respectively in charge of surgeons B. A. Vanderkieft and G. S. Palmer, there is what is termed the Middle Department, which is also in charge of Dr. Vanderkieft. This is the officers' hospital. Those officers whose appetites are not limited by sickness fare sumptuously here every day. In the large dining room of the naval school long tables glitter with handsome ware, and groan beneath substantial food and luxuries, artistically prepared. The officers pay \$1 per day for board.

On my first visit to the naval school hospital, one afternoon last summer, I saw as I entered the gate a procession approaching it, consisting of an ambulance, preceded by a band in handsome uniform, playing a funeral dirge, and followed by a detachment of soldiers with arms reversed. The three bodies in the ambulance had just been brought from the chapel where religious services had been held, and surviving comrades were accompanying them to the soldiers' cemetery. How grateful, I thought, would their relatives feel if they could have witnessed the solemn rites which had just been performed over the dead, and the respect thus paid to their memories by conveying them with military honors to their graves. I subsequently visited the cemetery, a beautiful sequestered spot about one mile from the hospital. Its paths were clean and on the long white rows of substantial head-boards were neatly inscribed the name, age, company, regiment, State and the date of the death of those beneath them; all impressed me with the untruthfulness of the poet's lines on the fate of soldiers, when he wrote :

“ They're but ambitious tools, to cut a way  
To her unlawful ends; and when they're worn,  
Hack'd, hewn with constant service; thrown aside  
To rust in Peace, and rot in hospitals.”

Many of our New York soldiers sleep in this beautiful cemetery. Wild flowers and birds sing requiems over their peaceful graves.

At Baltimore the former mansion and grounds of General J. B. Stewart, situated in the suburbs of the city, are now known as the Garvis hospital. It is in charge of Dr. De Witt C. Peters. In surrounding and beauty of location it is second only to those at

Annapolis. Here, too, ancient trees cast grateful shades upon the wards bencath, and invite the invalid forth from his weary couch to saunter along the intersecting paths. The whole place is a model of cleanliness, and the men seem to be as happy as men in hospitals can be. Here, also, appropriate religious services are held in the chapel over those who die, and the sick receive the kindest care.

Of Patterson Park, in charge of surgeon Thomas Sim, who until recently has had the valuable assistance of Dr. A. B. Cherbonnier, now at Annapolis; of the National, or Camden st. hospital, in charge of surgeon Z. E. Bliss; of that at Camp Parol, in charge until recently, of surgeon Geo. B. Parker, and indeed, of all the hospitals in this department, I can speak only in terms of praise.

In conclusion, I beg leave to state, that my sympathies for sick and wounded men, and for their families, have rendered the faithful performance of duty my greatest pleasure; and that I have already reaped rich rewards for my labors in the consciousness of having done good, in the gratitude expressed by soldiers, and also in numerous letters received from their friends.

Very respectfully,

G. M. MUNDY,

*New York State Agent at Baltimore.*

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(No. 13.)

DR. LEWIS POST'S REPORT TO THE NEW YORK STATE AGENCY.

JOHN F. SEYMOUR, Esq., *General Agent New York:*

Sir—My labors were continued at Washington and vicinity until the 14th of May, when, in connection with others, I was ordered to Belle Plain. Here Dr. Maxon and myself were placed in charge of 4th division hospital, and we remained there doing active duty for ten days. The day previous to the evacuation we were ordered to report to Surgeon Dalton, U. S. A., medical director at Fredericksburgh. After spending a day in visiting the various hospitals, particularly those of the fifth corps, I was ordered in charge of the transport George Weems to convey such cases as were unable to be transferred to Acquia Creek by rail. The first load we discharged on the "State of Maine" at Port Royal. I expected to have gone with the same to Washington, but was ordered by Dr. Cuyler, U. S. A., to continue in charge, and report again, without

delay, at Fredericksburgh, which we did on the following day. We remained at Fredericksburgh some thirty-six hours, waiting for wounded expected in from the Wilderness. The time, however, was profitably spent in policing the vessel, arranging for the comfort of the soldier, and preparing for what proved to be the evacuating load. Our transport soon became crowded not only with the sick and badly wounded, but with officers, attendants, both sexes of the different commissions, refugees, contrabands, horses, luggage, and one severe case of small-pox. A mass, heterogeneous and conglomerated, in a small hot space, exhaling every variety of effluvia, in all peculiar, concentrated, and obnoxious perfections.

With this load we moved off. The city had not passed from our view, before the enemy in small force took possession. The tide being unfavorable, we lay protected by a gunboat in shoal water, three miles below the city, for sixteen hours, with a barge we had in tow. Early in the morning we were able to move, and at 10 A. M. landed at Port Royal. Here we discharged a part of our load, and took aboard sick and slightly wounded two hundred and fifty, with instructions from Dr. Cuyler to transfer the same on the first transport we met, and then proceed to Washington. Fortunately, we found the Western Metropolis in waiting some 50 miles below, and gave her a part of our load—receiving in return supplies we much needed. Arrived in Washington at 4 A. M. Our report was accepted by the medical director as satisfactory. During the passage we lost two. These were placed in our hands in a dying condition at Fredericksburgh.

To surgeons, ladies, and nurses in attendance, who were so ardently employed during this protracted trip, and especially to Dr. Maxson, who voluntarily accompanied me the second time, and whose exertions, I fear, have laid him on a sick bed, my thanks are specially due.

Since the 3d of June I have been, as ordered, connected with the agency at Baltimore; have carefully visited all hospitals, and some of them several times. New York has here at this date 1,000 soldiers. Their condition generally is not bad; all desire a transfer to their own State. I accompanied Dr. Maxson to Harrisburgh per order of Mr. Ferry. There are no hospitals in Harrisburgh. There is a large one at York, containing now, I am informed, 1,800 patients. As I passed through, learned that we had boys there. I suggest that York receive some attention, if it has

not already had it. The soldier likes to be visited; attention to his wants gives assurance that he is not forgotten by the authorities of his own State. Timely visit and conversation, properly conducted, carry with them a most happy influence to cheer and comfort. It is good to visit the soldier. My report, I find, is far more lengthy than I designed.

Respectfully yours, &c.,

LEWIS POST.

### DR. POST'S REPORT OF THE AGENCY AT HARRISBURGH, PA.

JOHN F. SEYMOUR, Esq., *General Agent of New York*:

Sir—I arrived at Harrisburgh on the 1st of August; found there had been much suffering among the soldiers during the season, in consequence of there being no surgeon on hand to care for the sick and wounded. Arrangements were soon perfected for the Sanitary Commission to occupy a building near to the depot, formerly erected by two benevolent individuals of Harrisburgh, and by them kept in operation during the past season. We found it well provided with every necessary utensil and stove, except food and attendants. The last-named is now furnished by the commission, together with all necessary medicines, lint, bandages, &c. Since re-opening this establishment (five weeks ago), over 350 have been admitted, and have had our special attention. Besides, numbers have called at the Rest for medical prescriptions, and to have their wounds attended to. Of this number, about one-sixth part have been New York soldiers. Previous to opening the Rest, Captain Lee, in charge of the Soldiers' Depot, informs me that frequently they were obliged to call on citizen physicians, or send two miles for an army surgeon.

In addition to the above duties, twice I have visited the general hospital at York, once the post hospital at Carlisle, and several times the one at this place; besides visiting a New York battery across the river where we have 45 New York soldiers. I am happy to add, that the benevolent proprietors of the Rest, Messrs. Simon and Biar, together with several ladies, most heartily co-operate for the soldiers' good. It is thought that this building can be advantageously kept open for a few weeks yet. There has been no time, since I left the Rappahannock, when I have felt that my time has been more profitably spent.

Very respectfully, your obed't servant,

LEWIS POST.

HARRISBURGH, Pa., September 24, 1864.

## ( No. 14. )

GENERAL REPORT OF THE AGENT FOR NEW YORK VOLUNTEERS  
AT PHILADELPHIA—OFFICE 1021 CHESTNUT ST.

Under the benignant smiles of Divine Providence, the labors of this agency have been prosecuted another year with constantly augmenting usefulness.

Your agent has not been absent from his field of duty for a single day and his time of daily service has been at least one-third more than that of the offices of the government.

The hospitals of this medical department are nineteen in number. The one most remote from this office is at Pittsburgh, a distance of 350 miles; another at York, is 150; two are 18, one 12, one 10, one 7, and the remainder diminishing in distance from seven miles to one-half.

The aggregate capacity of these for patients is 25,000. The battles of the spring and summer campaigns filled and replenished all these with the unfortunate victims from the fields of strife. To these sacrifices to subdue rebellion and restore the authority of legitimate government, the State of New York had liberally contributed. 11,430 of its soldiers have been admitted to these hospitals since the commencement of the year. Many are here now requiring the unremitting attentions of this agency.

The varied wants of so many suffering soldiers are numerous—and whither can they look for relief? The kindred and friends of home are too remote to respond with their sympathizing words and ready hands. Military discipline is too rigorous to manifest much that is paternal. Its tones are mandatory and its sceptre iron; its orders and regulations are general and absolute, and it grants but little discretionary power. To examine the details of individual suffering and accord the needful sympathy and aid, it has neither time, place, nor spirit. When the government has done all that could be reasonably expected to mitigate the sufferings and horrors of war, much remains to be performed by other adapted and less restricted agencies. In their efforts in behalf of soldiers, the christian and sanitary commissions and State agencies, each in its appropriate sphere, has won unfading laurels. These agencies have been called into being by an imperative necessity, and while the necessity exists they cannot be abandoned without doing serious damage to the army and the country. Their necessary lifetime will reach to and beyond the period when the war

will terminate. What the State of New York has done to create and sustain these agencies, will justify her claim to a preeminently liberal and patriotic spirit. While she has given more soldiers to our armies, her voluntary contributions to the Christian and sanitary commissions and her State provisions for their benefit, have been greater than that of any other State and more than that of many of the States combined. The system of State agencies for the soldiers, for extent and efficiency, remains unrivalled.

This branch alone has been of priceless value to thousands. It has furnished necessary clothing to a multitude of the needy. It has given to many small sums of money and supplied many with stationery, postage and tobacco. It has obtained thousands of dollars for the soldiers of bounties due them from the State, and in every instance paid the claimant without the abatement of a single cent. To a great extent it has aided the soldiers to procure discharges, transfers, furloughs and descriptive lists. It has given them information, solved their difficulties, wrote letters for them, obtained redress for grievanees, and formed a channel of communication between them and the officers of the government, and given them salutary counsel on subjects vitally connected with their highest interests as men and soldiers. Substantial aid has been furnished to soldiers on transit, and poor, friendless, homeless, discharged ones, often sick and often crippled, have been properly cared for and aided in obtaining a temporary rest and home. In some instances, the wives and families of the soldiers have been relieved by this agency.

For the young soldier, a special regard has been manifested; to the erring, kind rebukes and judicious counsel have been given, and many a soldier, it is hoped, has thus been saved from falling a victim to the deadly vices which infect our armies.

A large amount of written correspondence and many personal interviews with the various officials of this department, and to some extent a correspondence with the officers at the seat of government, have been required of your agent.

In transacting the business of this agency the most kindly relations have been cultivated and sustained, and the agency and your agent have, without exception, been treated with proper courtesy and respect.

Agreeably to an arrangement made by the general agent of New York, with the president of the sanitary commission, your agency here has been enabled to supply many hundreds of soldiers with

such articles of clothing as were needed for their health and comfort, when relief from no other quarter could be obtained.

Soldiers often lose their clothing through intemperance and theft; more frequently on the field of battle, on forced marches and transits, and by other causes against which it is impossible to guard. Owing to frequent transfers and the difficulties of obtaining their descriptive lists, they fail often to receive their regular pay for many successive months. Hundreds, at this time, are in the hospitals here who have not been paid from four to ten months, and some even for a still longer period. Hardship and suffering are thus inflicted on the soldiers and their families for which some adequate remedy should be devised. State and voluntary agencies do much to alleviate their condition, but cannot do all that is necessary for their relief.

During the year, nearly all the hospitals of this department have been thoroughly visited several times, by your agent and assistants, passing through every ward, and going to every bed occupied by a New York soldier. The Guard barracks, also, have received like personal attention. These personal interviews have amounted to many thousands, and have resulted in much benefit to the soldiers.

During a good portion of the year, the calls at the office of this agency have averaged more than fifty per day—a fact which proves the value of the agency in the estimation of the soldiers. Such has been the personal attention and aid afforded by this agency, that your agent has frequently heard the soldiers of other States express a wish that they belonged to the State of New York that they might share in its paternal regards.

In the course of the year your agent has received much valuable assistance in the labors of the agency.

James Edgar, Esq., of Utica, assisted as clerk in the office about five months. The faithfulness and ability with which he discharged his duties, and the value of his services, are deserving of honorable mention.

Dr. J. E. West, of Utica, also assisted your agent for three months, performing much and valuable service. In the month of September he was detailed by the general agent to examine the condition of the sick and wounded soldiers of New York, in the Valley of Virginia, and then return. The battle of Cedar Creek rendered his services necessary in that field until nearly the close of the year. His own report will detail his useful labors while absent.

H. W. Chase, Esq., of Utica, accompanied your agent through several prominent hospitals, performed an acceptable service, and furnished through the public press much valuable and desirable information derived from his visits.

The Paymaster General of the State of New York, Col. J. D. Van Beuren, during nine successive days, in the month of July, visited, with your agent, some ten of the prominent hospitals. His kind and courteous bearing, and the interest he manifested for the soldiers won their regard and elicited their commendation. Many applications for State bounty were received and forwarded, and those found to be just were shortly after paid. Such visits, often repeated, would not fail to magnify the paternal character of the State, and secure to it the strong and abiding attachment of the soldiers.

In conducting this agency, the principles of a wise economy have been regarded. The expenditures have been as limited as its efficiency would allow.

A sacred regard also to the humane and liberal basis on which it was founded has been observed. No party politics or religious sectarianism was mingled with its foundation. The relief of New York soldiers was made its simple object. To effect this your agent accepted his appointment. With this, the verbal and written instructions of the general agent of the State, given to this office, have always accorded. In his letter of instructions of October 21st, 1864, in the flood time of political excitement, he says, in respect to arrangements to aid the soldiers to exercise the privilege of the elective franchise, "It is evident that if our agents keep any tickets, they should be of both sides; and, if keeping or distributing both leads to any wrangling, or impairs the usefulness of our agents, or subjects our agents to political attacks, they should be banished from our offices, and our agents should refuse to have anything to do with any and all tickets, powers of attorney, &c. Do not hesitate to act for the best interests of the agency and its highest character.

"You can judge of these things much better than I can. We should avoid all evil and the appearance. We must not be mixed up with polities in such a way as to give ground to any one to take exception to it. Therefore, you have full authority to take such course as you think best calculated to avoid all grounds of just complaint."

That this agency has been kept to its original intent, and con-

formed to the spirit and letter of instruetions so wise and just, your agent challenges the strietest serutiny. These instructions were in harmony with his eherished views and entire conduct. He had never sought to know the polities of the soldiers, and had never used the office for party purposes. While the ageney remains in his hands it can never be degraded from its humane and liberal eharaeter to subserve the interests of any politieal party. It will continue to be, as it has been, his undeviating poliey to promote the welfare of the soldiers, and make the office honorable to the State. All which is respectfully submitted.

REV. DAVID MALIN, D. D.,

*New York State Agent,*

*Office 1021 Chestnut St., Philadelphia.*

JOHN F. SEYMOUR, Esq.,

*General Agent of the State of New York  
for the relief of New York soldiers.*

( No. 15. )

### DR D. L. ROGERS' REPORT OF THE NEW ORLEANS AGENCY.

NEW YORK, August 16th, 1864.

JOHN F. SEYMOUR, Esq., *General Agent for Invalid Soldiers:*

Sir—I have the honor to offer the following report as a summary of my agency in the “Army of the Gulf,” extending from the 18th of Deeember, 1863, to the 31st of July, 1864.

On my arrival at New Orleans, the headquarters of the “Army of the Gulf,” on the 6th of January last, I applied to the Adjutant General for a roll of the troops belonging to the State of New York. I was furnished with the following twenty-one regiments. This number was subsequently increased by the arrival of three regiments of cavalry and several batteries, to wit :

90th New York Volunteers, New Orleans, La.

91st	do	do	Brashear City, La.
110th	do	do	Franklin, La.
114th	do	do	do
116th	do	do	do
128th	do	do	Baton Rouge, La.
131st	do	do	Brashear City, La.
133d	do	do	Bonnet Carre, La.
156th	do	do	Baton Rouge, La.
159th	do	do	Thibadeaux, La.
160th	do	do	Franklin, La.

161st New York Volunteers, Franklin, La.

162d do do do

165th do do do

173d do do do

174th do do do

175th do do Baton Rouge, La.

176th do do Bonnet Carre, La.

75th mounted infantry in the field.

14th cavalry, Carrollton, La.

These regiments I found scattered over the State at remote distances, discharging garrison duty. My second object of inquiry was to ascertain the condition of the sick and wounded. I found in New Orleans five large military hospitals: the "St. James," "St. Lewis," "University," "Charity," "Marine and Barraeks." The first four are situated within the city; the other two beyond its limits.

The hospitals are all large and commodious buildings, well ventilated, and under an excellent system of organization. They are furnished with every requisite for the comfort and treatment of the sick and wounded.

I beg to mention the surgeons in charge of the hospitals, in the highest terms of commendation, as able and energetic in the discharge of their duties; and I embrace this opportunity to express my obligations for their courteous attention and their readiness at all times to aid me in the discharge of my duties. To Dr. Alexander I am under special obligations for many favors.

The following was issued upon my arrival in the department:

"MEDICAL DIRECTOR'S OFFICE, }  
"NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 11th, 1864. }

"Surgeons in charge of general hospitals will admit Dr. D. L. Rogers at all times, and give him every facility in the transaction of his business.

"R. H. ALEXANDER, Surgeon U. S. A.,  
"Medical Director Department of the Gulf."

In connection with the above I may be permitted in this place to acknowledge the uniform kindness and attention received from Maj. Gen. Banks, and his anxiety on all occasions that the sick and wounded soldiers should be treated with every care and attention. On presenting my credentials he issued the following order:

"HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF, }  
"NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 22d, 1864. }

"Permission is hereby granted to Dr. D. L. Rogers, agent appointed by the State of New York to visit all the New York regiments in this department, to pass any point within the limits of the department, in his capacity of State agent.

"The quartermaster is directed to furnish him transportation on any Government conveyance.

"N. P. BANKS,  
*"Maj. Gen. Commanding."*

On my arrival I obtained from the surgeons of the hospitals a report of all the sick and wounded from the New York regiments. The aggregate number amounted to four hundred and four (404). Among the number reported I was much surprised to find so large a proportion of boys. In a letter addressed to Surgeon General Quackenbush, dated New Orleans, May 10th, 1864, I made the following statement: "I beg to call your attention to the subject of enlistments in the State of New York. I cannot say what authority you may exercise on that subject, but I insist that responsibility should rest on some one for the gross frauds practiced on the State and General Government. In the enlistment of soldiers, permit me to cite, for example, the 2d regiment of volunteer cavalry, raised in the western part of the State. Most of the recruits that have come under my observation are boys from thirteen to sixteen years of age. The greater part of them broke down on the first day's march and have been returned to the hospitals. I believe the recruits have generally received the State and county bounty. I view the enlistment of these boys as inhuman and dishonest. I hope, sir, if you have the authority, or can exercise an influence, you will arrest this shameful traffic in the life and blood of innocent children. I have to request that an official report may be made to his Excellency, the Governor, upon the subject.

On the first of April I addressed you a letter upon the subject of State and county bounties. Much dissatisfaction prevailed amongst the soldiers at that time, and the frauds to which were they subject from brokers and others, added greatly to their discontent. April 14th I addressed a letter of enquiry to Orison Blunt, Esq., and received a circular in reply. This not being satisfactory, on the 3d of June I sent the following letter :

NEW ORLEANS, June 3, 1864.

ORISON BLUNT, Esq., *Chairman of Committee on Bounties*:

Sir—There is much anxiety manifested by New York men here, on the subject of the county bounties. The circular says that the men must appear before the committee "in person." There are many who cannot be furloughed to go home after their bounties, and are desirous that some arrangement should be made that they can be paid here. There are sixty men in one regiment who went to New York on furlough in February last uninformed as to the method of obtaining their bounties; and now, not being able to get another furlough, are compelled to go without them. They are subject to all kinds of frauds by men professing themselves able to obtain the bounties for them. For instance, the sutler of one regiment was at my office this morning desiring me to assist him in going on to New York to obtain their bounties, they having agreed to give him, according to his own statement, fifty dollars each. I write to ask if some arrangement cannot be made authorizing me to investigate cases of men claiming such bounties, and to pay them. I have made arrangements with the National Bank of New Orleans, to cash all such drafts at par.

Your humble servant,

D. L. ROGERS, M. A., N. Y.

To this letter no answer was returned. In consequence of the non-payment of bounties a large number of men refused to re-enlist for the State of New York, and filled quotas of other states.

The subject of transportation early attracted my attention on my arrival in New Orleans. I found no arrangement made or care taken of invalids going east by sea. It is true that much care and a large amount of money has been expended upon transports going up the river, west, while those going home by sea were totally neglected. I found cases, on board of steamships "Continental," "Mississippi" and "Merrimac," with palsy, diarrhoea and dysentery, without medical attention or nurses. On the 26th of February, addressed the following letter, to Maj. Gen. Banks:

NEW ORLEANS, February 26, 1864.

Maj. Gen. BANKS:

Sir—As the agent for the State of New York, I beg respectfully to call your attention to the transportation of the sick and wounded from this department to the city of New York on Government vessels. When the disabled soldiers are discharged from the

hospitals they receive a ticket of transportation from the quartermasters, and here all official responsibility appears to cease. The transports are generally loaded with cotton and sugar between decks, and the sick are accommodated in the "hold" of the vessel. Many of the invalids are unable to help themselves. Most of them are destitute of bedding of any kind, without ventilation or any provision made for their comfort. To remedy the above, I beg to propose: 1st. That a ship should be provided by government to proceed semi-monthly to the city of New York from the city of New Orleans. The government to erect the bunks and to furnish the ship with provisions. The agent for New York, in connection with the sanitary commission, to furnish the bedding; 2d. A surgeon to be detailed by the department to take charge of the sick and attend them to New York; 3d. I beg respectfully to suggest that an officer should be appointed, whose duty it shall be to take charge of the discharged sick and wounded in the department and attend to their comfortable return to their homes.

With great respect,

Your humble servant,

D. L. ROGERS,

*Military Agent for New York.*

At a subsequent interview with Gen. Banks, he remarked, that every facility should be given me for transportation to New York, provided I would take charge of invalids going east—to which I readily assented.

In my report of March 12th, I state, "Within the last month I have fitted out and transported about two hundred invalids. By an arrangement with the heads of departments I am allowed every facility for attending to those invalids returning home. I am supplied with wagons, ambulances, provisions and a detail of men to do the work. Thus I am enabled to save the State a large expenditure for labor and transportation."

To every transport was furnished mattresses, pillows, blankets, provisions, medicines and nurses.

The surgeon in charge was given the following order:

"NEW ORLEANS.

"Sir—You will take charge of the sick and wounded on board of the steamship \_\_\_\_\_, and attend them to the city of New York. Upon your arrival in the city of New York you will report without delay to Col. J. S. Neville, Superintendent of the State

Soldiers' Depot, 50 and 52 Howard street, who will furnish transportation. You will turn over to Col. Neville all the hospital property in your possession and take his receipt for the same, and request him to return to my address all the bedding received by him from this department.

"Respectfully yours,

"D. L. ROGERS, *Agent for N. Y.*"

On the first of May the military hospitals in New Orleans became much crowded in consequence of a large number of sick and wounded brought in from Red River, after the battles of the 8th and 9th of April. The sick and wounded from New York had increased to nine hundred and eighty-six (986). As the sickly season was approaching, it became a subject of much anxiety as to the best means of relieving the hospitals. Should an epidemic disease break out in the city, it was evident, from the then crowded condition, that the fatality must be great in the hospitals. On the 1st of June I convened the agents of all the states represented in New Orleans, to consider the subject at this meeting. It was agreed to make the following representation to General Banks :

" NEW ORLEANS, June 4th, 1864.

Maj.-Gen. N. P. BANKS :

Sir—The undersigned, Military Agents of States, would respectfully represent that the season is approaching when epidemic diseases, peculiar to this climate, are likely to prevail. That a large number of sick and disabled soldiers are at present in the military hospitals unfit for duty ; a part are permanently disabled and others would soon recover by a change to a more northern climate. We would beg further to represent that a number have been fraudulently introduced into the service physically disqualified for any duty. The responsibility of enlisting them rests upon the examining surgeon and the enrolling officer. Thus men have received the bounties of States and from the general government, and are at this time drawing pay and subsistence, without the possibility of ever doing duty. We would respectfully propose that a board of surgeons be appointed to examine the sick and wounded in the hospitals for the purpose of discharging such as are permanently disabled for duty, and to furlough such requiring sixty days for their recovery. We humbly believe such an arrangement would relieve the government from a heavy expense ;

would preserve many lives, and at the end of sixty days restore to the army a healthy body of men.

With great respect, your humble servants,

D. L. ROGERS, Agent for New York,

L. R. BROWNELL, *Agent for Ohio,*

CHARLES F. KIMBALL, *Agent for Indiana,*

GEORGE C. SMITH, *Agent for Wisconsin,*

NATHAN UDELL, *Agent for Iowa.*"

This application was promptly responded to by Gen. Banks, and an order issued to send the sick to the hospitals at St. Louis. The board of examiners did not act with the promptness that was desired, and the hospitals continued much crowded to the time of my departure, on the first day of August. On the first day of July, the number of soldiers in hospital from the State of New York amounted to 1,218, the largest number at any one time during my agency. Fortunately, the season remained extremely healthy, owing to the energetic measures adopted by Major Gen. Banks for the drainage and cleanliness of the city; and I may remark that the improvements in drainage and other municipal regulations by Gen. Banks, has rendered New Orleans one of the cleanest, healthiest and most beautiful cities on this continent, and it will be resorted to by those who seek a southern climate for the winter.

Finding that Government transports on the river were not in sufficient number, and of an inferior class for the accommodation of the sick, I made a personal representation to Gen. Banks, in company with Col. Kimball, of Indiana, when the following order was issued, so characteristic of his promptness and humanity:

"HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF, }  
NEW ORLEANS, June 12th, 1864. }

*"Special Order No. :*

"The Chief Quartermaster will, upon the requisition of the Acting Medical Inspector of the Gulf, immediately seize such of the first class river steamers as may be required, and prepare them for the sick and wounded soldiers to be transported to St. Louis. *No steamers are too good for transportation of sick and wounded men.* N. P. BANKS, Major Gen. Commanding."

N. P. BANKS, Major Gen. Commanding."

In my report of May 19th, I state that "within a short time attention has been called to the subject of property left by deceased soldiers. Unless claimed by a legal agent, it is sold, and

and the proceeds sent to Washington. I have claimed the right to administer, as the agent for the State of New York, on property belonging to the soldiers from that State. I am informed by the Assistant Adjutant General that it cannot be done, except by order of the Secretary of War. If I can obtain the right, much property may be saved to the families of deceased soldiers."

On May 31st I made an application to Gen. Banks upon the subject of property of deceased soldiers, upon which he issued the following order :

"HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF,  
NEW ORLEANS, *May 31st, 1864.*"

"Special Order No. 142 :

[EXTRACT.]

"16. Dr. D. L. Rogers, military agent for the State of New York, is authorized, in the absence of legal representatives of officers and soldiers from the State of New York who may die in the department, to take possession of, and forward to the order of their families, such property as they may possess in the department, receipting to the officers who may be responsible for the same.

"This order will not be construed as interfering with the existing regulations in regard to the rendering of proper reports and inventories by officers who are responsible.

"By command of Major General Banks.

"GEORGE B. DRAKE,

"*Assistant Adjutant General.*"

From my instructions, dated December 18th, 1863, I beg leave to make the following quotations, as explaining a part of my duty :

"The objects of this commission are : 1st. The care of the sick and wounded New York soldiers and an examination of the hospitals, and the correction of any neglect you may observe. Your reputation and experience will enable you to do these things in accordance with the rules of the 'United States Medical Department,' without giving any offence to the surgeons in charge. 2d. The sanitary commission will furnish clothing on your order. If, however, you experience difficulty in obtaining clothing from the sanitary commission, you will please advise me, and clothing will be sent to you from this city."

In my report of May the 19th, I made the following statement : "In the retreat of the army from Red River, the soldiers lost all

[Senate, No. 83.]

their clothes and descriptive lists, whieh has rendered it neees-sary for me to draw largely on the sanitary commission for clothes."

On the 12th of July I made the following report : "The Sanitary eommission have but a small stock in this department, and my orders are seldom more than half filled. They have always appeared to eomply with my orders with great reluetanee, under the plea that my furnishing the new York soldiers with necessaries excited a jealousy with the soldiers from other states, who have not an agent here ; and to avoid that feeling, the New York soldiers should be allowed to want ! If possible, I could wish that the State might be independent of the Sanitary Commission, by purehasing its own supplies and giving them out as the neees-sities of the soldiers shall require. It is extremely unpleasant to have an inquisition held upon every order I issue, and for the agent of the Sanitary Commission to presume to judge to what objeet and to what extent the State of New York shall see proper to extend her care and protection to her soldiers."

In my report to the department I had frequent oeeasion to complain of the want of surgeons, and only in one instance could I proeure the detail of a surgeon to attend to sick and wounded to New York. It is, however, a defieieney that has been observed from the commencement of the war. No branceh of the army has suffered more from ineopeteney than the surgical department. With a few noble exeeptions, the army was filled with professional men without experience or qualifications as surgeons—many without any claim to medieal knowledge. The want of surgical experience could be applied with good justice to the medical offieers of the regular army. But few had ever seen a gunshot wound or performed a surgical operation. The ordinary camp diseases as fevers, diarrheas, &c., had been the subjeet of their care and attention. I beg to observe that the above remark is not made with any design to depreeciate the medical staff of the regular army. I am happy to say that a large number are distinguisheed for a high order of talent and aequirements ; but the defieieney proeceeded from a want of opportunity to acquire praeticeal knowledge. In civil life we cannot estimate more than one medieal man in a hundred physieally and morally qualified to discharge the duties of an operating surgeon. We eannot estimate a larger number as composing the medieal staff of the army. With a medieal staff thus hurriedly brought together, the scene exhibited

after a great battle, can well be imagined. It was but one vast field of experimental surgery. Each surgeon ambitious to perform his virgin operation, but without experience or judgment. On one occasion, among those who came by the invitation of the Secretary of War, was an apothecary with his box of instruments, seeking an opportunity to obtain some *experience* in operative surgery.

Thus it may be asserted, without the fear of contradiction, that our soldiers have been exposed to a most barbarous surgery. Many hundreds have been sacrificed to ignorance and life destroyed by improper operations, and a large number have been crippled for life, when by proper care their limbs could have been preserved.

The general government will be held responsible for a deficient organization in the medical department of the army, but much of the evil will rest upon the medical officers of the old regular army; their jealousy of rank and a desire to monopolize all the high commissions and honors. They sedulously labored to exclude all those called outsiders. It is well known that at the opening of the war that many surgeons of high distinction and long experience, tendered their services, willing to make every sacrifice to their country in its hour of trial. They were permitted to act for a time, as contract surgeons, without rank or station, and in some instances, acting as subordinates to their own pupils. I will not say that a board of examination was instituted to exclude such from the service, but such was the effect. For the rule was imperative that no medical man could enter the service without submitting to this examination, without any regard to his character or qualifications. No surgeon of eminence could submit to such degradation, and most of them were driven from the army. I believe it is not the practice when the government requires an Attorney General or Judge Advocate to require them to submit to an examination. Chaplains were exempt from this ordeal. Generals are chosen for their demonstrative merits. I cannot conceive why surgeons of well known merit and reputation should not be received into the service upon the same recommendation, and given a rank and station equal to their position in civil life. In the Army of the Potomac, under General McClellan, an attempt was made to organize a corps of qualified surgeons, after the plan, as it at present exists, in the English and French armies. It was submitted to the Surgeon General and met his approval. The medical directors of the army refused to adopt it. I was informed

that it was subsequently submitted to Major General Halleck and rejected as an innovation.

The expense attending the agency from the 18th of December, 1863, to the 30th of July, 1864, as per account rendered, amounted to twenty-two hundred and fifty-three dollars and ninety-nine cents (\$2,253.99).

During the months of June and July last most of the New York regiments in the Department of the Gulf were withdrawn and transferred to the Potomac, and on my departure on the 30th of July last but three (3) regiments of cavalry and two (2) batteries remained.

Very respectfully your humble servant,

D. L. ROGERS,

*Military Agent for N. Y.*

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( No. 16. )

REPORT OF H. SEYMORE.

BUFFALO, December 1, 1864.

JOHN F. SEYMORE, Esq., *General State Agent for relief of Sick and Wounded Soldiers.*

Sir—I inclose herewith a report of the sick and wounded New York soldiers in the various hospitals in the department of Tennessee from April 22, 1864, to June 10th, 1864, embracing a list of 1,807 from our different regiments in the army of Gen. Sherman. These were obtained on my first tour of inspection of hospitals at the southwest.

Immediately upon my return I had these drawn off, showing the disabled soldiers from the different regiments. The list so prepared of each regiment, I at once transmitted to the respective counties in the State, from which the regiments came, and caused to be published in leading journals, in order to give the friends of such soldiers information as to their situation.

I also inclose the monthly reports of New York soldiers admitted into hospitals at Louisville and vicinity up to and including the month of October, and like monthly reports of admission into hospitals at Nashville, Tennessee, as forwarded me from time to time by William S. Parkhurst, Esq. and Mrs. H. C. May, the respective State agents at those places.

I am gratified to be able to say, that nearly every week it has been my fortune to meet wounded soldiers on their way to their homes in this State, who have spoken of the kindness and attention by them received at the hands of those agents. Several of the severely wounded in battles before Atlanta, were loud in their praises of the tender care and untiring energy of Mr. Parkhurst at Louisville, in having their wounds dressed and bestowing every needed attention. "He was up with me the whole night and acted like a brother," was the emphatic language of one. It was gratifying to me, and I doubt not will be to you, to have this kind of evidence that your agents were not neglectful of their duties.

In regard to duties at this point, no report which would be of public interest can be furnished. They consist of mere daily routine work. During the season the average number of soldiers passing through daily is from fifteen to twenty. Some two hundred to two hundred and fifty are in hospitals at this place. Those arriving from the west are usually furnished transportation to this point, and require attention to guide them to the Soldiers' Rest and procure for them further transportation to their places of destination. If too weak to proceed, they are carried to the hospital. Each day brings the call to correct erroneous papers, to obtain transfers from other hospitals, to secure furloughs for a son or brother, to write for lost descriptive lists, to obtain back pay on discharge for disability, to secure State or county bounty when still due, and to answer questions and solve doubts without number.

I may add that Dr. Crispell, the United States surgeon in charge, is uniformly courteous, and desires to do all in his power to relieve from the numberless troubles which gather around the soldier's life. The appearance of the paymaster would afford him satisfaction and greatly comfort his hospital family.

I also transmit the report of Dr. J. A. Peters, who was sent with other surgeons to Tennessee, by your direction, during the progress of the severe battles in Georgia.

Your contribution to the Soldiers' Rest at Buffalo, was worthily bestowed. A large share of the soldiers which have enjoyed its benefits have been our New York troops. Some 1,400 have been received and lodged there, and some 3,800 meals furnished to soldiers on their passage.

Many of our soldiers from the southwest and lower Mississippi, have been assigned to hospitals at Memphis, and have received the faithful care of your agent, F. W. Bingham, Esq., at that point.

A recent visit to the various hospitals west, enabled me to see to the distribution of voluntary contributions in that quarter, and gave renewed assurance that all in your power was being done for the comfort and relief of our soldiers throughout that department.

The letters by you heretofore received from me, together with those annexed hereto from Mr. Parkhurst and Mrs. May, I beg leave to be considered as part of my report.

Yours respectfully,

HORATIO SEYMOUR, of Buffalo.

GALT HOUSE, LOUISVILLE, July 17, 1864.

JOHN F. SEYMOUR, Esq.

My Dear Sir—I arrived here more than two weeks since and immediately commenced my labors in the several hospitals in this city and vicinity. I have visited them all, together with their branches, except the eruptive ones. I herewith send a printed list of the different hospitals and their locations. I find in these several hospitals some 560 New York sick and wounded soldiers, most of whom I have seen and talked with. They are located as follows :

In the Jefferson hospital, about-----	234
Col. Holt hospital, about-----	57
Totten hospital, about-----	78
Brown hospital, about-----	48
Clay and branches, about-----	40
New Albany hospital, about-----	82
Floating hospital, about-----	31

In addition to these, we have in Camp Division about 100 ; at Madison, Indiana, 40, and Evansville 13, making over 700 in all. I have provided for the immediate wants of those here as well as I have been able. It is impossible to do justice to the New York men here without some means of conveyance. The hospitals are at such a distance from each other—from one to five miles—that it is impossible to get supplies to them without a conveyance and hiring is out of the question. The prices are so high, \$8 a day for horse and wagon, and \$3 an hour for carriages. I want something that I can send supplies in to the different hospitals, and the cheapest and best way would be to have a one horse ambulance, and I think you could have one furnished me here by applying to the Quartermaster General. Everything here is exorbitantly high ; I have delayed renting an office for that reason ; I must have one and shall rent one at some price to-mor-

row. I have been trying to persuade the Indiana agent to rent one with me ; I think he will do so ; he is now paying \$600 for a very poor one.

I am at the Galt House ; their charges here are extravagantly high and I shall leave as soon as I can get an office and a good place to board. They charge me \$90 per month. It will cost me about \$3.50 a day to live here, including washing, &c. I shall try to find cheap board.

Respectfully Yours,

WILLIAM S. PARKHURST.

NEW YORK MILITARY AGENCY, }  
LOUISVILLE, Sept. 3, 1864. }

HORATIO SEYMOUR, Esq., Buffalo :

My Dear Sir—Yours written at Albany, was received in my absence. I left here on the 15th ult. for the purpose of visiting the hospitals in Nashville, Murfreesboro, Chattanooga, (Tenn.) and Marietta, and at the front in Georgia. I found in Nashville Mrs. Dr. May, who was about leaving for New York. I think she is an excellent kind hearted lady, and as good an agent, with the aid of her husband, as can be had. At Murfreesboro, I found no agent. I visited all the hospitals and conversed with most of our men there ; they are well cared for and are all convalescent. The hospitals at Murfreesboro, are pleasantly located, and they have a vegetable garden of 85 acres attached which affords all the vegetables necessary for hospital use. There are in hospital fifty of our men. At Chattanooga, I met Dr. Seymour, and found him like all the Seymours, very much of a gentleman and ready to give any information and assistance needed. I visited the patients in hospital on Lookout mountain and found several good fellows confined there in the officers' department. All of them were doing well and are now being well fed and nursed much better than they have been. At Marietta, Georgia, I found no New York men, but in the field hospital at the front, I found 190 of our men, some of them dangerously sick. Out of that number only 12 were in hospital from wounds ; the others from fevers, diarrhoea and scurvy. They were all being provided for as well as could be expected with the means they have at command.

The surgeons at the front, and all the commanding officers say, that much of sickness in the army would be prevented if they could have vegetables to give the men three or four times a week.

It is highly important that vegetables be sent to men at the front. The Indiana State agent has purchased some 2,000 or 3,000 barrels of onions and potatoes to distribute to their men, and while there I promised our men they should be supplied with vegetables. I want 500 barrels of potatoes, 300 barrels of onions, 200 barrels of erout or eabbage, and about 60 barrels of vinegar, to distribute to men at the front. They can be bought here and at Cincinnati as cheap as anywhere. Money spent for these articles will do three times more good than it will in canned fruits and delicacies. The old saying that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, never was more truly verified than it would be by furnishing vegetables for our men. I hope, therefore, you will not fail to supply me with funds for that purpose at once. It would encourage and invigorate our men. I want you to purchase a buggy for me in Buffalo. I can buy a horse here but not such a buggy as I want. I should prefer a kind of Rockaway buggy, so that I could take a wounded man when necessary. Also attend to matter of vegetables and oblige

Very respectfully yours,

WM. S. PARKHURST.

HOSPITAL No. 8—NASHVILLE, *October 31, 1864.*

HORATIO SEYMOUR, Esq., Buffalo:

Sir—Allow me herewith to submit the following as my report for the months of August, September and October:

During the month of August, from the 1st to the 17th, I labored constantly for the good of our New York soldiers, and furnished money and other necessaries whenever I deemed it advisable.

On the 17th, in company with my husband, I left my field of labor for a short stay at the North, to recruit my wasted strength and enfeebled health.

I return to my duties here, my health much improved, and impatient to enter again upon my labors. I visited hospitals whenever I could spare an hour from my arduous office duties. Kind and constant attention to the sick and suffering I consider the most important of all my duties, and am never so happy and joyful as when I can do a great deal to lighten their weary burthens.

Hospitals are well located, well ventilated, and in most cases well kept, and the patients have all the care and attention that can possibly be granted to them where so few attendants are allowed as here in this department.

The Sanitary Commission are doing all they possibly can do for me, in issuing supplies, and I am happy to inform you that the difficulty is entirely removed, and everything done to render my position here pleasant.

I am much pained to know of the utter carelessness of officers in giving proper papers to soldiers being transferred from the field to hospitals, so that patients are oftentimes obliged to wait months before receiving their hard earned \$13 a-month.

Our hospitals are being filled up with the sick from new regiments; the sudden transfer from the cold bracing air of the North to this miasmic atmosphere is telling on our new recruits fearfully.

I am, dear sir, very respectfully yours,

MRS. H. C. MAY, *N. Y. State Agent*

*for relief of sick and wounded soldiers.*

BUFFALO, August 19, 1864.

JOHN F. SEYMOUR, Esq., *State Agent for relief of soldiers:*

Sir—In compliance with your request, I beg leave to submit, for myself and for Dr. H. Van Guysling and Messrs. Maekey and Abbott, the following report of our doings on our recent mission to the relief of the wounded in Tennessee.

We left Buffalo on the 25th of June, and arrived in Cincinnati on the 27th. We then called on the medical director, Surgeon W. S. King, U. S. A., but finding from him that very few, if any, New York soldiers were in the hospitals under his direction, we considered it not best to stop to visit them, and proceeded to Louisville. We reported, on our arrival there, to Surgeon Shumard, U. S. A., assistant medical director, who told us there was a supply of surgeons both there and at Nashville, and that consequently we were not needed as surgeons. Influenced by these representations, with the assent of my colleagues, I wrote Hon. H. Seymour, of this city, advising that no more surgeons be sent on at present. We then commenced the thorough visiting and inspecting of the hospitals in Louisville, to ascertain the needs and condition of the soldiers of New York regiments, then believing this to be the only available way of fulfilling our mission. The fact was very soon developed that but little could be accomplished in this way to the benefit of the soldiers. Their needs in the way of food, medicines and medical attendance were as fully met already as they could well be, and their chief want, money, we were unable to supply. Under these circumstances we were seriously debating

whether it would be best to push on to Nashville or to return home, when we ascertained that Col. Wood, medical director of the department, was in town (a fact of which the assistant medical director had neglected to inform us), and we immediately reported to him.

He received us with great kindness, and informed us that surgeons were much needed at Nashville, and, at our request, gave us orders to report to Surgeon W. Clendennin, U. S. V. Medical Director at that place, for duty, which orders we immediately proceeded to carry out, arriving at Nashville on the morning of July 3d.

Early next morning we reported to Surgeon Clendennin, and were all assigned to duty at Cumberland General Hospital, in the suburbs of the city. In this hospital we spent the remainder of our term of service, finding enough to do in the care of the sick and wounded there. Of the details of our duty there it is unnecessary for me to speak here; suffice it to say that we worked hard, and received evidence that our labors were to the satisfaction of the surgeon in charge and the medical director.

On the 23d of July, having received two telegraph messages announcing serious illness in my family, I asked to be and was relieved from duty, and started for home.

My companions, showing evidence of being affected by the unhealthy influences of the climate, I advised them to accompany me, which they did. I am sorry to be obliged to add, that they have all been prostrated since their return with typhoid fever, and could hardly have survived a longer exposure to the producing cause of the disease. My own health suffered severely from the recurrence of a malady originally contracted in camp, but not to the extent of my colleagues'. We arrived in Buffalo on the 25th instant, a month from the time of our departure.

In regard to the condition of the sick, I must say they are as well cared for as the exigencies of the case will admit, and on the whole, probably better than they would be at their own homes.

The two great *desiderata*, it seemed to me were, more regular pay of soldiers in hospital, and a greater supply of medical officers. This latter need will be easily enough met when Congress will authorise the payment of medical officers a sufficient salary to support them, and not till then. One hundred dollars per month will but little more than support an officer at such a post as Nashville, and will do nothing towards supporting a family. Con-

sequently medical men, who are dependent on their exertions for a livelihood, cannot enter the service.

I had intended presenting some suggestions in regard to the management of State agencies, &c., but finding they have for the most part been carried out already, I refrain from presenting them, and beg leave to subscribe myself,

Very respectfully yours, &c.,

JOSEPH A. PETERS, M. D.

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(No. 15.)

LETTERS OF H. SEYMOUR, OF BUFFALO.

DEPARTMENT OF THE CUMBERLAND,  
CHATTANOOGA, May 20, 1864. }

JOHN F. SEYMOUR, Esq., *General State Agent  
for Relief of Sick and Wounded Soldiers* :

Dear Sir—Pursuant to the commission of the executive of our State, I proceeded at once to examine the situation and condition of New York soldiers, wounded or disabled, in this department. I have visited them in the various hospitals of Cincinnati, Louisville, New Albany, Jeffersonville, Nashville; and at this place every courtesy and facility have been extended by the medical and military authorities. Upon my arrival, some difficulty was experienced in effecting the inspection, by reason of the transfers of patients then being made in various hospitals throughout the department, in anticipation of expected battles by the advance of General Sherman's army. All who could bear transportation were being sent from Chattanooga, Knoxville, Huntsville, Nashville, and Louisville, to other hospitals in localities further north.

I have found our soldiers generally in comfortable condition in hospitals (with some occasional slight exceptions), well conducted, finely ventilated, and with ample supplies. I was able to afford relief in many individual instances, which were gratifying. One great source of trouble is the improper transmission, or the loss of the descriptive list, as the soldier is moved from camp to hospital in the army's transfer from the Potomac to the Cumberland. This inadvertence not unfrequently deprives him of his pay for many months. The extent of the evil is illustrated by the fact, that at the Nashville post-office alone over 650 of these descriptive lists

have accumulated, which the postmaster is wholly unable to distribute to the different posts. It requires, of course, the aid of a proper agent to search out the facts, and relieve the soldier from the effects of these irregularities.

At this point, I find my hands and heart full, as our New York wounded are brought from the battle-fields. The assistance it is in my power to render, is comforting to the poor fellows and gratifying to myself. Many are assigned to the several hospitals in this vicinity. Where the wounds are less severe, they are sent to Nashville, Louisville, and other northern places. Our State regiments are in the 20th corps, as now organized, under General Hooker. Those now being received here from the front were mostly wounded at Buzzard's Roost and at the battle of Resaca. Everything possible is being done for their comfort. The fortitude and uncomplaining endurance of the sufferers is indeed surprising.

I will prepare and forward, as soon as time will allow, a full report of our wounded, and the hospitals to which they respectively are consigned.

The sanitary commission carry out their arrangement, and promptly respond to all requisitions for supplies.

Yours respectfully,

HORATIO SEYMOUR, of Buffalo.

BUFFALO, June 10, 1864.

JOHN F. SEYMOUR:

Dear sir—I enclose letter written you while I was at Chattanooga, but, as I discovered by the public prints, that you were with the army in Virginia, I deemed it useless to then send it.

I have had a very satisfactory survey of our disabled soldiers in the southwest. I found them in all the principal places—at Cincinnati, Jeffersonville, Louisville, Nashville and Chattanooga. They were cleaning out as far as practicable all the hospitals towards the front, when I reached Kentucky and Tennessee, to make room for the reception of the wounded from Sherman's army, which was already on the advance, still I was enabled to visit them in the various hospitals, and found them generally doing well and excellently cared for. There is a disparity in different hospitals, depending frequently upon the ability of the particular surgeon in charge. That at Jeffersonville, with capacity for 3,500,

will be superior when fully completed. The Cumberland Field hospital, at Nashville, with its appointments, was on the whole in the best condition of any I met. Thousands from the recent battles are added to the number, filling all to their utmost capacity. The constantly arriving trains at Chattanooga, bringing the wounded for distribution, gave a realizing sense of the horrors of war. The more severely wounded were placed in the various hospitals there, while those less seriously injured were sent to the various hospitals further north. I was enabled to aid much in relieving the sufferers. It was gratifying to them to find there a State agent looking after their interests. I witnessed many touching cases of fortitude and endurance ; the uncomplaining spirit of the wounded struck me forcibly.

I found Mrs. May at Nashville and delivered your communication. I think her an excellent and efficient agent. I obtained from her a copy of your agreement with the Sanitary Commission, and learned from her in detail the character of the difficulties. I subsequently had a full and satisfactory conversation with the Sanitary Commission agent, at Nashville. I furnished him with a copy of the agreement. I found Judge Bort (who was in charge at Nashville), a courteous, intelligent gentleman. As I laid open the subject, he met it in a frank, manly manner, said he had never understood it, and assured me that no difficulty should exist in future.

I subsequently explained to Mrs. May the result of our interview. She was highly gratified that the matter had been satisfactorily arranged. Supplies (without the requisition of any surgeon in charge), will now, on her request as State agent, be promptly furnished. I had the pleasure of seeing our soldiers receiving the benefits of such contributions. Upon reaching Chattanooga I was unable to see Mrs. Hovey, as she had left Lookout Valley, having accompanied her husband, Dr. Hovey, when the army advanced into Georgia. She returned to Chattanooga, however, before I left, and I delivered your letter, with its enclosure. Mrs. May spoke to me on the matter of increased compensation, and wished I would present the matter to your consideration. The expenses of living are very high in Nashville, she says, and I have no doubt truly, that the very lowest rate of board is \$10 per week, and everything else is proportionately high. From my experience and observation of her duties, I must say, that I think the salary should be increased. On the subject of State agents in that department

I have something to say, but as this epistle is already long, will defer till my next.

I will at a proper time forward a detailed report of number and localities of our wounded. Over 4,700 wounded were brought into Chattanooga before I left. Of our State regiments the 154th, 134th, 149th, 136th and 141st were the largest sufferers. I have forwarded to localities of some of the regiments such information as to wounded as I thought would be of interest.

Yours truly,

HORATIO SEYMOUR, of Buffalo.

BUFFALO, Jan. 15th, 1864.

JOHN F. SEYMOUR, Esq.:

Dear Sir—I suggested in my last that I would write you on the subject of State agents in the western department. I think it important that an efficient, earnest agent be appointed for Louisville, Kentucky; that is a kind of transfer point. The wounded from the front, and furloughed and discharged soldiers are constantly passing, and are continually exposed to numerous difficulties and mishaps, which seem to follow that unfortunate class. The care and attention of a faithful State agent would be of value there. I think the matter is carried to an excess by other States. I found local agents from Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Michigan, at all the prominent points; Cincinnati, Louisville, Nashville, Chattanooga and other lesser places. Besides this, traveling agents or inspectors from nearly every State are found there. The expenses must be enormous for such a battalion—board and everything else is so exorbitantly high; hotel charges are \$3.50 or \$4.50 per day. Still, in view of the number of our regiments in that department, and the numerous wounded in recent conflicts, agents at certain points are desirable; one would be of use at Chattanooga, but it is a horrible place to live in, and the expenses of living enormous. Perhaps the benefits would hardly compensate for the outlay; but at Louisville I think one is very desirable. Then an agent at this place is needed, as the gateway to the State from the west. Here the soldier from camp or hospital is first sent. It is a singular fact, that in nine cases out of ten, transportation for discharged or furloughed soldiers is given only to Buffalo, leaving the soldier here to look up the proper officer to forward him to the centre, northern or eastern part of the State; the number, too, is likely to be increased. As the hospitals are now nearly all filled to their

utmost capacity more freedom is indulged in giving furloughs. In almost every case, where the wounds are such that the soldier can travel, leave of absence is given them to return home. The result is that large numbers from our own regiments must be making their way to this point on their route homeward. A suitable agent here could occasionally visit Cleveland and soon learn of arrivals there, and make his arrangement at that point, to be advised of those coming in this direction. Their wants, through the benefit of the "home" now in successful operation at this point, could all be supplied. The State would thus be enabled to faithfully carry out its purpose of guarding and sheltering these war-worn veterans, returning from the battle field, some to die, and many of them maimed and disabled for life. At least this much should freely be done by our State. I hardly think agents are needed at other points, for the reason that, when forwarded from Kentucky, all by some of the several routes are consigned to Cleveland and sent thence by car or vessels to this point. I pray for the time when the State may be relieved from the duty of caring for these poor sufferers; but from the sanguinary character of the conflicts, both at the southwest and in Virginia, I am satisfied that the world will never have known such a harvest of dead and wounded as our poor land will present.

Yours truly,  
HORATIO SEYMOUR, *of Buffalo.*

NASHVILLE, TENN., Sept. 29th, 1864.

Hon. H. SEYMOUR, *Buffalo, N. Y.:*

Dear Sir—I have not forgotten your visit to Nashville during the summer. It was pleasant to me, and, I trust, interesting and profitable to yourself and the cause in which you are engaged. Our work here is progressing, and successfully—as much so as the nature of the case and the fluctuating circumstances of the campaign will permit. Just now Forrest is interrupting our communications with the front; but this interruption will be of short continuance. We are full of hope for the future; the final struggle and triumph of our arms is near. Let us sustain our brave boys in the field a few days longer, and then the end will be accomplished, for which we all pray. Your agent, Mrs. May, pleasant, agreeable, lady-like and efficient, is here at her post. I see her every day, and know that she is active in the discharge of her duty. I have suggested to her, and repeat the suggestion to you,

that she should make Nashville her headquarters, and pass over the road occasionally to the front, stopping at intermediate places as may be necessary. To do this it will be advisable that she have an assistant acting under her directions. I suggest this as the most economical and systematic mode of conducting the business of the New York agency in this department. Permit me further to say, that I hope and trust that you will liberally provide for the contingent expenses of Mrs. May. These are, here, necessarily considerable. If she is cramped and embarrassed in her means she will not be able to do half the good she could otherwise do. You need not fear she will be extravagant; that is neither her nature or habit. I am a New Yorker myself, and I desire to see the interest of my native State honorably sustained.

These are my own thoughts, and I hope you will pardon the liberty I take in expressing them to you. We are brothers in the same noble cause, and inspired by the same motives of patriotism and benevolence.

Please accept assurances of love and friendship from

Your co-laborer,

E. ROOT,

*Agent in charge of N. Y. San. Com., Nashville, Tenn.*

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( No. 17. )

REPORT OF WM. S. PARKHURST, OF LOUISVILLE, KY.

To His Excellency HORATIO SEYMOUR, *Governor of New York:*

In compliance with the request of Hon. John F. Seymour, general agent for the sick, wounded and furloughed soldiers of the State of New York, I have the honor of transmitting my report of the business transactions of the New York State military agency at this place, since my connection with the same. I came here under commission of your Excellency to look after and provide for the wants of the New York soldiers in the department of the Cumberland, at Louisville, Ky., and to perform the general duties of military agent at this post, in June last.

Upon my arrival here I found a large field open for labor. Nearly 800 New York men are confined in the hospitals. There had been no constituted agent for the State of New York located at this place, and consequently no one authorized to look after the particular interest of her soldiers, who, though kindly cared for by the officers and persons in charge of the many hospitals here,

were suffering for the want of those things, which only a person specially appointed can find means for supplying. I found here, however, Mrs. Dr. Horey, who had interested herself in their behalf, and had rendered much valuable service.

My first business, upon my arrival here, was to ascertain the number of soldiers, and the location of the several different hospitals, and then to obtain an office, suitably and conveniently located, to which the soldiers of New York might have free and ready access. In a northern city, one removed from the crowd and irregularities, consequent upon scenes of war, this would have been a simple and easy task; but I found it otherwise here, and for weeks could find no place suitable for an office, and at last it was only through the assistance of Thomas G. Fairleigh, colonel and commandant of the post, that I obtained one, located at 523 Sixth street, where I have since kept my office, which has at all times and upon all occasions been open and free to the soldiers of New York. No sooner was the office opened than it became a place of resort to the soldiers in need, and, from a few at first, in August and September, as high as one hundred were frequently counted, as soldier visitors to the office of the agent, in a single day, with various wants and enquiries. A larger part would want tobacco, others clothing, some would desire letters written, or paper, envelopes and postage stamps. Applications for transfers, furloughs and discharges were frequent, and often-times a little money would be asked for and granted for some particular purpose.

Besides these visits from soldiers, during the summer months, the office was visited by many travelers from New York, wishing recommendations for passes to Nashville and other points within military lines. Sometimes whole families, seeking friends and relatives in field and hospital, have visited us, and at all times we have given them whatever aid our position could grant; many times furnishing them with passes at military rates. Always keeping a register of the soldiers of New York confined in hospitals here; and furnished, facilities for answering enquiries, which could otherwise have been obtained, only through much delay and difficulty.

During September a little incident occurred which was not entirely devoid of interest to us. It was that of a New York volunteer who had been in service in the army of the Potomac,

and while engaged in one of the numerous conflicts which that army has sustained, was captured and sent a prisoner to Andersonville, the world-renowned slaughter-house of the Confederacy. He told the accident of his escape—how he was hunted by blood-hounds ; how he had eluded his pursuers by taking to streams ; how for several days he had marched shoeless and almost naked, with nothing to eat save what he himself could pick up in a barren and desolated country, and to hear the account of the suffering, deprivation and death of our soldiers there confined, from one who has himself experienced its tortures, far surpassed our imagination with the more horrible realities of prison life at Andersonville. We furnished him clothing, food and money, and he went on his way rejoicing. Several others have since visited us, all telling the same tale of horror and of suffering.

During the latter part of October, and the few days in November preceding the election, your agent procured furloughs for all the New York men in hospitals that were able to travel, and also for those on duty at this place, for the purpose of enabling them to repair to their respective homes to vote. Very few of them had money, and many of them had not been paid for months. All had long distances to travel, none less than six hundred miles, and many of them over one thousand miles, and it became absolutely necessary that they should be provided with a small amount of money to defray their necessary expenses on the road ; and small amounts were advanced by your agent, with a promise from most of them to refund the same on their return ; but, while to some two hundred dollars was advanced, very few have been able to refund ; and although it is never refunded to the State, the comfort and gratification it furnished the poor soldier, will more than repay the trifling loss.

About the middle of August last, hearing that there were many New York soldiers confined in hospitals south of here, and knowing that we had no agent below Nashville, I visited the several hospitals in Georgia and Tennessee. At Nashville I found several hundred, at Murfreesboro about fifty, at Chattanooga quite a large number, and about two hundred in the field hospitals at the front, about Atlanta. Of the whole number confined in the field hospitals, there were but twelve suffering from wounds, the remainder were suffering from scurvy, diarrhoea and fevers.

When General Sherman left Atlanta for Savannah, he took with him the Twentieth corps, under Major-Gen. Slocum, comprising

nearly if not all the New York regiments in this department, so that those now in hospitals are mostly old patients, and as fast as they become fit for field duty, are being forwarded to their commands. There will of course be some who will not be able to rejoin their command, and these should be transferred to New York.

There is one subject to which I would call the attention of all those interested in providing for the wants of the soldiers, that of procuring proper food for them. There is a large amount of money expended yearly for canned fruits and other delicacies, which, if used in procuring suitable vegetables, as onions and potatoes, would be much more useful, and prove far more beneficial in preventing disease. The principle of providing delicacies for the sick, is well enough, but when we consider the number of changes they are subject to, the distance and length of time before they reach the soldier, it will readily be perceived that they cannot be forwarded without more or less damage, and to be damaged a little is to utterly unfit them for the wholesome purpose for which they are intended.

I cannot close my report without expressing my thanks to the officers in charge of the U. S. Sanitary Commission, and the Kentucky branch thereof, for the uniform kindness and liberality they have extended to this agency since my connection with it.

I should be doing great injustice to the officers of the general government at this place did I not also express my thanks and those of my State to them, for the urbanity and kindness shown me on all occasions, and for facilities furnished me in visiting the New York patients in the several hospitals in this department, and particularly to Col. Thos. G. Fairleigh, commandant of the post, and his gentlemanly assistants, for the many passes granted to the citizens of New York, thereby enabling them to visit their friends within military lines.

I have the honor also to add, in closing, the following statistics:  
Whole number of applications for relief at this office since July

1st, 1864 -----	2,800
Whole number furloughed-----	380
Whole number returned to duty-----	443
Whole number transferred-----	571
Whole number discharged-----	17
Whole number died-----	30

Whole number deserted	6
Whole number now confined in hospital	300

Respectfully submitted,

WM. S. PARKHURST,

*New York Military Agent.*

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Dec. 30th, 1864.

( No. 18. )

REPORT OF MRS. MAY.

HOSPITAL NO. 1, }  
NASHVILLE, June 7, 1864. }

Mr. JOHN F. SEYMOUR :

Sir—Allow me to submit the following report for the month of May, 1864, together with a general review of my duties and labors during the six months it has been my privilege to act as your agent, to relieve the sick and wounded soldiers from our noble Empire State, now in the Army of the Cumberland.

Since the late battles at Buzzards' Roost, Resaca and Dallas, we have been constantly receiving patients from the front, and as constantly sending them on to Louisville, so that a large number of New York men have been under my especial care every day for the last four or five weeks, and I have the satisfaction of knowing that I have relieved many, very many, of urgent wants, and received from each one their deep heartfelt gratitude. They are mostly of them wounded in their arms and hands, consequently perfectly helpless. When they were taken to the field hospital, immediately after the battles, their clothes were torn off them, and when transferred to Chattanooga no clothing furnished them, and when transferred to Nashville, no pants, vest, coat or shoes given them, and in many, very many instances, their money was taken from them, so that when I find them they are helpless in every sense of the word.

The funds sent me in February are nearly all expended, or I should have purchased those things for them, but as far as I know no New York man left here without my furnishing him with clothing drawn from the sanitary commission, who I am happy to inform you have honored my requisitions, since Hon. Horatio Seymour visited here. They are, however, so constantly sending to the front, that it is almost impossible to get the things I stand

most in need of. I cannot draw any fruit or jellies, as they send every thing of that kind to the front. I have consequently been obliged to purchase such things, and shall soon be obliged to purchase more.

Since the late battles, the large number of patients coming in have kept the ambulances constantly running, and the medical director sent me word it would be impossible to furnish me one until after the press of business was over; I am consequently obliged to hire a hack, for which they charge two dollars for the first hour, and one dollar for every subsequent hour. Of course I shall only go to that expense when visiting the hospitals two or three miles out of the city. They are opening several new hospitals in the city and my duties are constantly increasing, yet I feel that with the funds you sent me, and what I claim from the sanitary commission, I can do a vast amount of good. The hospitals now being opened are the ones closed last winter, after I came here—old No. 14, 12, 9, and the cavalry barracks three miles out of the city, beyond the Cumberland hospital, of which Mr. Seymour can tell you. I have had two hundred cards printed like the one enclosed, which I have had placed in every ward in every hospital in the city, so that every New York soldier will know of me immediately on his arrival in the city. The men are so far away from home they seem to appreciate all I do for them, though sometimes hard to understand why a lady should leave her home and come down here to attend to them. Yesterday an old man from the 107th New York was brought into the hospital No. 1, very badly wounded, his pants perfectly filthy, and so covered with blood that the flies completely swarmed around him. He sat in a corner all alone, looking at me as I went from one to another supplying their wants, giving them clean cotton shirts, cotton drawers, also dark woolen drawers to use as pants, while I had theirs washed for them. After I got through I went to him and said, what can I do for you? "For me! For me! Oh! kind lady, I am so dirty." Well, said I, I will soon have you fixed up nice and clean, at the same time giving him some clean clothes and telling him to go to the bath room, then to the barbers, and I would settle the bill for him. He sat perfectly still, in wonderment, not seeming to understand me. I then told him who I was, and as he listened the tears trickled down his sun-burned face, and he said he "never heard of such kindness to a poor old man."

I need very much, as soon as you can send it, \$300 or \$400, as I shall be obliged to purchase clothing and also fruit.

Hoping to hear from you immediately, and that my request will be accepted, I remain, truly yours,

MRS. H. C. MAY, *New York State Agent,  
in relief of sick and wounded soldiers.*

HOSPITAL NO. 1, }  
NASHVILLE, June 21, 1864. }

MR. JOHN F. SEYMOUR :

Sir—I hasten to acknowledge the receipt of your letter yesterday morning, mailed at Cazenovia, enclosing a draft for five hundred dollars (\$500), and according to your instructions I have made out my bill and sent it to Gen. Taleott, desiring him to forward the draft to my father.

Enclosed please find receipt for one hundred dollars (\$100), being my salary for May and June, as you direct.

I am very grateful indeed for the amount sent to me, and be assured it shall be expended as you would most desire if you were here.

I shall be obliged to purchase about one hundred pairs of pants as so many of the soldiers are brought in entirely destitute, and in many cases are sent off again before drawing on the partial descriptive lists which they have lately furnished for the emergency, and it was for that purpose I telegraphed to you for funds. I have seen many and many a poor fellow go away from this hospital with nothing on but drawers and shirt—no socks, pants, coat or hat, though no New York man has gone so to my knowledge.

If any of our "aid societies" have five or six hundred white shirts, I should like to have them forwarded to me immediately, as they keep clean longer than white ones, and look better though badly soiled. The Sanitary Commission is poorly supplied with pads and slings, ring pads, small and large, and good, thick, soft, square pads, are very much needed just now, and much suffering is caused by the almost entire absence of them in the hospitals in this city. Hospital gangrene is spreading rapidly in some hospitals and everything once used must be burned. Linen rags, too, are very much needed. Whilst we are way off down here I sometimes fear that our ladies north are not doing as much for our poor boys as they once did, feeling, perhaps that so much cannot be needed, but I hope they will banish that idea from their minds and go to work with increased vigor and send a large supply to

this department. Only those families north, who are still permitted to sit under their own "vine and fig trees," with none to molest or make afraid, and enjoy the quiet, sweet and sacred joys of *home*, could spend one week, yes, even one day, in one of our hospitals here, and see for themselves the sufferings so patiently borne day after day of these soldiers, it seems to me they could no longer fold their hands in idleness, as I fear some are doing, but would share with us the aches and pains incident to constant "going to and fro," to the wants of these heroes who have fought so nobly for their *homes* and their God-given rights. I could not, if I would, return to our *little quiet home*, the dearest spot to my heart on earth, and leave so many, many suffering ones comfortless. 'Tis sad, 'tis piteous, to see this suffering, but less would not have sufficed the purposes of God. "The future is the present of God, and to that future He sacrifices the human present." My heart is constantly going out in prayer for them, and as long as God gives me strength, I shall spend it in ministering to their wants. We need the prayers and sympathy, in a peculiar degree, here in this department of the Cumberland of all true and loyal hearts to "stay us up" whilst we are so widely separated from all our hearts most fondly love, and in our lonely homes, our thoughts are ever of the north—its pure cooling breezes and pleasant streams, and *everything lovely* in nature. Our heart strings, like the CEolian harp, are ever strung to songs of the loved, though far away, and each zephyr that blows wafts sweet thoughts ever homeward, *homeward*. But I must not trouble you thus. Pardon me. Fresh fruit is very high here, but the poor boys, especially the amputation cases, are constantly longing for it, and I have purchased quite a good deal, though in small quantities, as we cannot purchase in large quantities.

Your telegram is received; sorry to trouble you; I shall try to get my report in in time this month. Shall I send a list of names to you each month? or to the Soldiers' Depot in New York?

Respectfully yours,

MRS. H. C. MAY,

*New York State Agent.*

HOSPITAL NO. 1, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE, }  
July 1, 1864. }

Mr. JOHN F. SEYMOUR :

Sir—I have the honor herewith to make my report for the month of June, 1864.

The press of business incident to an active campaign still continues, and not a day passes but we are called upon to admit one or two hundred of the wounded into our already crowded hospitals. I mentioned in my last report the opening of more hospitals. Since that time old No. 12 has been re-opened, and the medical director has added two hundred to the Cumberland as "field hospitals;" also two hundred tents to No. 14, recently opened near the Chattanooga depot; also about one hundred tents to hospital No. 2.

I have visited all the hospitals as often during the past month as I thought best, though not as often as any month before since I came here—the reason being that since my cards were issued my room is almost constantly thronged with soldiers from the different hospitals in and around the city to get necessaries either for themselves or comrades less fortunate than they, who are yet confined to their beds. The men are all greatly embarrassed for the want of money—not having been paid off for six months; and being wounded, are sent here without their "descriptive roll." Consequently cannot draw their pay here.

Enclosed I send you a correct account of my expenditures for the last month, and shall await most anxiously your reply, as I fear I am spending money rather too freely; though I feel assured I have not given to unworthy or ungrateful men.

In most cases, the money given is to those circumstanced as above mentioned—starting home on furlough—it being too hard, in my opinion, to see a soldier going home without even one dollar, when he has done his duty faithfully to his country and periled his life for "the sacred cause." The weather is exceedingly hot, and the amputation cases need the best of wine and the purest of brandy to keep them up, and I have frequently purchased it for such cases, and such only.

The sanitary commission fail yet to furnish me with canned fruits, jellies, Cologne, or bay rum—all of which are invaluable at this time; especially the latter, as the air is constantly tainted and impure, and the poor boys seem so grateful for anything to relieve them, even for a little season, from the terrible effluvia.

Allow me here to make honorable mention of Miss Hattie A. Dada, of Fulton, N. Y., who was one of the very first ladies to volunteer her services as nurse, and most nobly has she done her duty in every instance; and as Mrs. B. L. Hovey has now left Chattanooga and gone to Louisville, Ky., and as we greatly need an

agent at this place, I should be most happy to know of her being appointed agent for that place, or further to the front, if you please. She has great powers of endurance, and is willing to sacrifice anything, so that she may add to the comfort of the soldiers. She is well known by many of the surgeons in the army—all of whom appreciate her noble, self-sacrificing spirit, and do all they can to make her position a pleasant one. She knows nothing at all of my mentioning her name to you, though I feel assured she would be most happy to accept a position where she can do so much good as she would then be enabled to do.

Mr. Horatio Seymour told me when he left Nashville, that he thought it necessary there should be more agents appointed in this department—hence my mention of Miss Dada.

Hoping my report will meet your approval, I close.

Most respectfully,

MRS. H. C. MAY,

*N. Y. State Agent for Relief of  
Sick and Wounded Soldiers.*

HOSPITAL No. 1—NASHVILLE, July 31, 1864.

Hon. HORATIO SEYMOUR:

Sir—Allow me herewith to make my report for the month of July, 1864. I have visited all the hospitals in and around the city during the month, and have ministered to the comforts and necessities of many of our wounded soldiers. My heart ever sympathizes with them in their troubles, and I am proud of the confidence they all have in me, and in my desire to do them all good.

Many and many a sad but interesting case I might mention to you, were it admissible, all tending to show the practicability of sending State agents to these distant fields, for the relief of our own noble boys.

In my report for the month of April, or May, I think, I urged the necessity of State agents drawing supplies directly from different aid societies in our own State, but he seemed to think best for us to draw from the Sanitary Commission. I would again urge it, as I know I could do a greater amount of good, and our boys would be far better satisfied, as I have often been asked if the things I was distributing were from our own State, with the remark from the recipient “I wish I could get something from our aid society, as my mother makes things for that society.”

Respectfully yours,

MRS. H. C. MAY,

*New York State Agent.*

NASHVILLE, September 30, 1864.

HORATIO SEYMOUR, Esq.:

Dear Sir—Owing to my late visit to New York State, and my inability to get my room fitted up until a few days since, an official report of my movements will not be necessary, and I therefore beg leave to omit the same until the first of November, when I hope to give a good account of myself.

My health is almost entirely recovered, and I have visited several hospitals this week, calling upon very many old patients whose faces were familiar, receiving from them a hearty welcome back again. I also saw and comforted many who had been brought in since I left—all of whom assured me they had heard of me, and were heartily glad to see me. As my husband wrote you, we have secured rooms near the centre of the city, and but a step from the St. Cloud Hotel. I was obliged to go to considerable expense to make the room at all tenable; but, as it is in the most desirable part of the city, and kindly allowed my husband, by the surgeon in charge of Hospital No. 8, where he is on duty, free of rent, I thought you would have no objection to the expenses incurred, as you will see at once when the bills are presented that everything purchased was absolutely necessary. I was obliged to be guided in my purchases by the quality of the articles purchased, as the cheapest furniture cannot be sold at auction as well as that which is well made and finely finished. When I mentioned to you, at Buffalo, that my expenses would be increased, as I intended to take a room down town, I had no idea at all of the expenses I would be obliged to meet. Board at a second class boarding house cannot be obtained less than ten dollars a-week; and, as my board was allowed me when at Hospital No. 1, my actual expenses are increased forty dollars a-month; and, inasmuch as everything necessary to furnish our daily wants costs almost twice as much here as at home, I would most respectfully request that my salary be increased, from the first of October, sufficient to cover the increase of my expenses as near as in your judgment is right.

The agents of the Sanitary Commission are very kind to me since my return, and seem anxious to give me whatever I desire they have in their rooms; but the soldiers seem so much better satisfied when they know the things come directly from their own loved State, and that they were gotten up by willing hands, and earnest of loved ones, and sent here especially for them, that I

desire very much to receive supplies from home societies as much as possible.

The keg of blackberry cordial has not yet arrived, though I don't think it can be time yet. Will you please send the blanks you mentioned, as Mr. Parkhurst had none. I will send in my bills of expenses as soon as the blanks are received. The list of names of New York soldiers I will also send in, in a few days. I shall be obliged to prepare the blanks myself, as I cannot get any here, and it takes considerable time just now when I am so hurried. I am hoping to receive four or five hundred dollars soon, as I have been advancing from private funds until now I am quite out.

They are granting a good many furloughs now, and, as the boys have not been paid off in a long time, they need a dollar or two when they go home, which I have given them when I deemed it prudent. May I not hope to receive an immediate reply? And, be assured, any instructions you may give me will be well and carefully carried out, and my duties here most faithfully performed; for I know that much good can be done, and many a sad heart made glad by the kindness and sympathy of your agents in these distant fields of labor. And let me add, that the name of His Excellency Governor Seymour will be gratefully cherished in the hearts of the suffering soldiers, who have been ministered unto by the agents in this department so kindly commissioned by him.

Hoping to hear from you very soon,

I am most truly yours,

Mrs. H. C. MAY, *N. Y. State Agent  
for relief of sick and wounded soldiers.*

NASHVILLE, Dec. 14, 1864.

Mr. JOHN F. SEYMOUR:

Sir—I have the honor to submit the following as my final report for the year 1864:

This report must of necessity be similar to my monthly report, as I have always aimed to give you a pretty good idea in each report of my work here as your agent.

Since Hood's sudden appearance at the gates of our city, and the consequent falling back of our army from the distant fields of Atlanta and Chattanooga, I have been able to do a great deal for the comfort of our soldiers, in furnishing them with necessaries they have been deprived of for months. There have been several instances of the most heroic endurance of privations I ever wit-

nessed, where the noble fellows would endure fatigue, cold and hunger for the sake of remaining on the field with their companions in arms, instead of being admitted into hospitals where there are no familiar faees to cheer them and greet them warmly.

During the year there have been three thousand four hundred and seventy-four (3,474) New York soldiers admitted into the different hospitals in this city, and I am happy to state that of this number but ninety-four have died; with but few exceptions, all these have been interred in "The Soldiers' Cemetery," all having government eoffins furnished, and all buried with appropriate serviees, conducted by some of the army or post chaplains. All the graves are marked with a plain white head-board, the name, rank, company and regiment written on plainly, and the grave numbered so that friends can secure their remains if desired at some future time.

I have tried and generally have visited each of the hospitals in the city and vieinity as oft as once a month, conversing with each New York soldier, and consequently have been well aequainted with all their wants.

In conneetion with my duties at this post, I have visited hospitals at Murfreesboro twice during the year, and ministered to their wants, furnishing them with sanitary stores, and also advanced money from funds furnished me by yourself.

I have received from the different commissions in the city during the year and distributed to the patients in hospitals the following supplies: 97 blankets, 92 eomforts, 104 pillows, 279 pillow cases, 72 sheets, 1,128 shirts, 922 pairs drawers, 190 dressing gowus, 66 coats and vests, 1,000 towels and handkerchiefs, 160 pairs socks, 202 pairs slippers, 360 pairs mittens, 72 eye shades, 424 eushions and pads, 1,440 pounds bandages and rags, 196 pin cushions and housewives, 680 cans fruit, 80 cans tomatoes, 217 cans eonecentrated beef, 524 cans condenseed milk, 60 pounds erackers, 44 pounds dried beef, 15 pounds tea, 40 pounds white sugar, 237 pounds dried fruit, 2 barrels fresh apples, 380 pounds corn starch and farina, 18 pounds eodfish, 51 pounds butter, 44 dozen eggs, 557 bottles wine, 84 bottles Bourbon whisky, 8 bottles Catawba brandy, 12 bottles Catawba wine, 44 bottles ginger wine, 100 bottles blackberry brandy and wine, 400 bottles eherry brandy, 186 bottles lemon syrup, 140 bottles raspberry vinegar, 81 cans portable lemonade, 90 gallons apple butter, 67 gallons pickles, 60 gallons sourkroud, 43 gallons ale, 50 dozen fresh

lemons and oranges, 180 pairs erutehes, 320 arm slings, 332 palm leaf fans, 900 books, &c. Besides the above, I have received a large amount of stores from Col. Show, Indiana State agent, who has always cheerfully filled all requisitions sent to his office. I have also distributed 200 woolen shirts, 200 drawers and 100 pairs soeks, 48 woolen ehokers. I have received two boxes of stores from New York State, one from Cazenovia, one from Corning. I have advaneed money to New York soldiers, the majority of whom were going home on furlough and had not been paid off for several months, and they were therefore greatly in need of a few dollars to purchase neeessaries before starting and also food on the way. Inelosed please find invoice of office furniture belonging to the State. I have received during the year thirteen hundred and one dollars (\$1,301), all of whieh money, with the exception of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250) retained as salary, according to your instruections, has been most faithfully disbursed for the eomfort and well being of our soldiers. I received two hundred (\$200) by express yesterday, and after settling bills previously ineluded, I have on hand at this writing one hundred and eight dollars sixty-five eents (\$108.65) belonging to the State, and whieh I will send in aeeounts for the 1st of January, 1865, and refund the amount unexpended to you if I am not appointed the coming year.

Thanking you most kindly for all your favors to me during my stay here as your agent, and hoping this report may meet your approval,

I remain truly yours,

MRS. H. C. MAY,

*New York State Agent for Sick and Wounded Soldiers.*

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( No. 19. )

JOHN F. SEYMOUR, Esq., *Gen. Agent S. N. Y. :*

Aeeording to instructions contained in the following letter, I proeceeded to Sharpsburg in company with Governor Bradford.

ALBANY, April 15, 1864.

JAMES M. REDFIELD, Esq. :

My Dear Sir—I understand that Gov. Bradford goes to Sharpsburg next Friday to select the ground for a eemetary for the remains of the soldiers who fell in the battle of Antietam. I wish you to go with him and to aet as the agent of this State in all

things relating to the selection of ground and designs for the cemetery, and exhuming and interring the remains of our soldiers. I wish to have you direct your whole time and attention to this matter. To do this, may involve the necessity of removing to Sharpsburg and taking up your quarters at that place. If the labors and expenses of this position at Sharpsburg are greater than those at Baltimore, they will be paid. You will be obliged to travel more than heretofore and the expenses thus incurred will be allowed to you. You will acknowledge the receipt of this letter and state whether you accept the position offered you as soon as possible.

Truly yours,

(Copy)

JOHN F. SEYMOUR.

We selected as the most eligible site a spot known as "Lee's Hill," just on the skirts of and east of Sharpsburg, on the Boonsboro Pike, and concluded to take ten acres of the ground selected at one hundred dollars per acre. Returning to Baltimore, I was taken sick and proceeded to Batavia, N. Y. On my recovery, I addressed Gov. Bradford; in reply he informed me that "our progress in the matter of the Antietam cemetery was unexpectedly arrested by a communication from the legal gentleman to whom I referred the question of title, informing me of a defect therein. There was, as I hoped, some probability that the defect suggested might be removed, and I was informed some weeks since by a citizen of Sharpsburg that arrangements had been made to that effect, but I have heard nothing of them from the counsel and until I do must suspend any operations looking to the lot we selected." Here the matter has rested, nothing being done by either party towards purchasing other land than that selected, since there is no other site as fine for the purpose indicated, near Sharpsburg, and we were constantly in hopes of having the defect in the title to the selected land remedied. I have constantly reported myself to Governor Bradford in person and by letter, as ready at all times to cooperate with him on the part of the State of New York, but could do nothing in the matter independently as the State of Maryland had the refusal of the land and courteously had admitted the State of New York to an equal share in the purchase, &c.; and it would not have been desirable to purchase other lands and thus make two cemeteries where one was the object.

I would respectfully refer you to certain letters and reports sent

you and the Governor, for further particulars, copies of which I have not by me.

I am sir, respectfully,

JAMES M. REDFIELD.

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COPY OF AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF LAND FOR CEMETERY AT ANTIETAM.

At a session of the General Assembly of Maryland, begun and held at the city of Annapolis on the sixth day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-four, and ended on the tenth day of March in the year aforesaid—His Excellency A. W. Bradford, Governor—among others, the following law was enacted, to-wit:

No. 237.

AN ACT entitled “An act to purchase and enclose a part of the battle-field at Antietam for the purposes of a State and National Cemetery.”

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, that the sum of five thousand dollars be and are hereby placed in the hands of the governor to be used for the purchase and enclosure of a part of the battle field at Antietam, not exceeding ten acres, at one hundred dollars per acre, for the purposes of a State and national cemetery.

SEC. 2. And be it enacted, that the governer be and he is hereby authorized to appoint an agent in behalf of the State, whose duty it shall be to act jointly with the agent appointed by the State of New York and other states in superintending the work of enclosing the Antietam cemetery, and also of exhuming the bodies of deceased soldiers of Maryland and New York, and of other states, if required, and removing them from the different hospital grave yards, or other places of burial, within the enclosure of said cemetery, and that the bodies of those in the army of Gen. Lee, who fell, shall be buried in said cemetery in a separate part of the cemetery from those of Gen. McClellan’s army who fell.

SEC. 3. And be it enacted, that the said agent be empowered to assist in enclosing said cemetery with a plain and substantial stone wall, laid in lime-mortar, well coped and clamped, not less than four feet high and at a cost not exceeding three dollars per cubic perch; and that he also be authorized to act jointly with the agent

of New York in contracting with the governors of the different states, or their agents, for the removal and burial of their dead within said enclosure; and he shall be required to report annually to the Comptroller of the State the amount of his receipts and expenditures, with all the statements in detail, connected with the burial of the dead and the completion of the cemetery.

SEC. 4. And be it enacted, that the said agent shall keep a register of receipts and expenditures, and return the same under oath, with the certificate and the seal of a magistrate or justice of the peace for Washington county, to the comptroller of the State, on or before the first day of January, eighteen hundred and sixty-five; and if the receipts exceed the expenditures such excess or surplus funds shall be applied to the purpose of improving and ornamenting the grounds of Antietam cemetery.

SEC. 5. And be it enacted, that the aforesaid agent shall give good and sufficient bond to the State to the amount of four thousand dollars; and he shall receive as compensation for his services, in quarterly payments, a sum not exceeding five hundred dollars.

SEC. 6. And be it enacted, that the governor be and he is hereby authorized to appoint a keeper of the Antietam cemetery, after it shall have been completed, whose duty it shall be to protect the property thereof, to make all needful and necessary repairs, to plant, cultivate, and preserve the trees and shrubbery from injury, to prevent the defacement or mutilation of tombstones and monuments, and to hold the keys and have the general superintendence of the grounds, admission of visitors, and all the interior arrangements of said cemetery. And any person who shall destroy any of the trees or shrubbery, or mutilate or destroy any tombstone or monument in said cemetery or enclosure thereof, shall, on conviction thereof before any justice of the peace, be fined not less than ten nor more than fifty dollars, to be recovered as small debts are recoverable.

SEC. 7. And be it enacted, that this act shall take effect from and after the date of its passage.







Deacidified using the Bookkeeper process.  
Neutralizing agent: Magnesium Oxide  
Treatment Date: May 2010

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